

White Sands Test Facility

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
MID-PLUME CONSTRICTION AREA
REMEDIATION PROJECT**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is designed by the Federal Government to investigate proposed projects and their effects on the natural environment. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has prepared an EA for this project based on Section 7.5 of the *NASA Procedures and Guidelines for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Executive Order 12114*. This EA analyzes the proposed placement of extraction wells, above ground and sub-grade piping, electrical supply, access roads, and a possible pretreatment substation in the mid-plume constriction area (MPCA) on NASA, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and State of New Mexico (NM) land adjacent to the NASA White Sands Test Facility (WSTF). The MPCA extraction well system would complement the plume-front remediation system that is currently in the design and preliminary construction phase. Predictive model simulations indicate that flow interception and the removal of contaminants at the MPCA is critical to expedite plume remediation. This proposed MPCA remediation project would effectively remove contaminant mass at the mid-plume location, isolate the plume-front area from upgradient source area contaminants, intercept and mitigate westward contaminant transport, contain the northwest trending contaminant lobe, and minimize ecological and human health risks to potential receptors.

Under the plume-front remediation plan, NASA intends to implement a pump and treat groundwater remediation system to prevent further migration of contaminated groundwater caused by historic site operations. The MPCA remediation would be an integral part of the plume-front system. Approximately 4,542 liters per minute (1,200 gallons per minute (gpm)) would be treated and injected during the operational life of the plume-front and MPCA system. NASA expects the MPCA system to be operational by Fall 2004. Contaminant treatment standards for the injected water have been developed following standards and guidelines from Federal and State regulatory sources. The proposed locations for the MPCA extraction wells and associated construction activities are in Sections 33 and 34 of T20S, R3E, and Sections 3, 4, and 5 of T21S, R3E.

This analysis evaluates the environmental effects of the proposed project, the alternatives, and determines if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be prepared. The EA is designed to present information sufficient to determine if there are significant impacts which merit a more detailed study, analysis, and public input. An Environmental Impact Statement, if necessary, presents the results of the detailed study and analysis, and attempts to rigorously measure and present the nature and level of potential significance.

Alternatives Considered

NASA has considered the alternatives of full-scale groundwater remediation and no-action. At this time, full-scale remediation is not viable due to regulatory issues concerning plume-front contaminant migration, the extensive groundwater contamination plume boundaries, and hydrogeological concerns regarding remediation in fractured bedrock. The no-action alternative is not viable because it would not isolate source area contamination from the plume-front area, contaminant mass would not be remediated, the plume would continue to migrate through the MPCA, and the northwest trending

contaminant lobe would not be abated. The Environmental Assessment provides information concerning each alternative.

Environmental Aspects

Environmental aspects were examined pertaining to the following areas: land use; energy; groundwater quality; biological resources; cultural resources; noise; air; and geology and soils. The following section summarizes the conclusions for relevant environmental issues:

Land use - Additional wells, well pads, roads, above ground and sub-grade piping, and powerlines with poles would be needed to support this proposal. Using existing facilities where applicable would minimize these actions. After construction, any disturbed land that would not be used on a regular basis would be reseeded according to suggestions from the BLM.

Energy - The plume-front EA energy estimate included the additional MPCA energy requirements. Additional site-wide electrical usage due to the implementation of a plume-front and MPCA remediation system would be approximately 8,900,000 kilowatt-hours and \$500,000.

Groundwater Quality - Groundwater quality at the project area would be significantly enhanced. Groundwater pump and treat remediation would remove contaminant mass, reduce potential ecological and human health risks, and prevent continued plume migration.

Biological resources - The proposed project area has no habitat critical to the survival or reproduction of any listed species of plant or animal. This was observed during a threatened and endangered species survey. Additionally, there are no areas nearby that are considered highly sensitive or moderately sensitive that could be affected by the proposed action. However, wells, well pads, roads, pipes, and powerlines with poles would be needed to support this proposal. Using existing facilities in all applicable instances would minimize these actions.

Cultural resources - During the implementation phase, there is a possibility of unearthing archeological resources. An archeological survey has been completed for the affected area. If any undocumented or previously undiscovered archeological site were uncovered during construction, site construction would cease until historic preservation issues are resolved. No known archeological sites would be endangered or disturbed by the proposed project.

Noise - Construction activities are expected to be completed intermittently over a one-year period. An additional four extraction wells would be drilled, each lasting approximately 10 days. Ecological impacts from well installation activities, remedial system construction, increased vehicular traffic, and system operation are expected to be negligible.

Air - Environmental impacts to air quality will be minimal. The NMED Air Quality Bureau does not regulate emissions from remediation activities and the emission quantities from air stripping activities are well below RCRA-related permit thresholds (Subparts AA, BB, and CC).

Geology and soils - A minor concern exists with an increase of wind or water erosion of soils during the construction phase. This is unlikely to transform the topographic conditions within the proposed area.

If an accident or mishap occurs as a result of this project there may be a minor environmental impact. All necessary precautions would be taken to ensure that operations are performed under the safest conditions possible to minimize any impact on public health and employee safety as well as the natural environment.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
Table of Contents.....	i
Figures	ii
List of Abbreviations	iii
1.0 <u>Purpose and Need</u>	1
2.0 <u>Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives</u>	6
2.1 Proposed Action.....	6
2.2 Other Alternatives.....	11
2.2.1 Full-Scale Groundwater Remediation.....	11
2.3 No-Action	15
3.0 <u>Affected Environment</u>	15
3.1 Geology and Soils.....	15
3.1.1 Stratigraphy	16
3.1.2 Structure.....	16
3.2 Climate and Air.....	17
3.2.1 Subpart AA	17
3.2.2 Subpart BB	18
3.2.3 Subpart CC	18
3.3 Water	18
3.3.1 Aquifer Description	19
3.3.2 Groundwater Movement.....	19
3.3.3 Groundwater Recharge/Discharge	20
3.3.4 General Groundwater Quality.....	21
3.3.5 Background Metals Concentrations	21
3.4 Cultural Resources.....	21
3.5 Biological Resources	22
3.5.1 Naturally Occurring	22
3.5.2 Endangered Species	23
3.7 Land Use.....	25
3.8 Energy.....	25
4.0 <u>Environmental Consequences of Proposed Action and Alternatives</u>	26
4.1 Proposed Action.....	26
4.1.1 Land Use.....	26
4.1.2 Energy.....	26
4.1.3 Groundwater Quality	26
4.1.4 Biological Resources	26
4.1.5 Cultural Resources.....	28
4.1.6 Noise.....	28
4.1.7 Geology and Soils.....	28
4.1.8 Air Quality.....	28
4.2 Full-Scale Groundwater Remediation Alternative.....	29
4.3 No-Action Alternative	29
5.0 <u>Agencies and Individuals Consulted</u>	29
6.0 <u>List of Preparers</u>	29
7.0 <u>References</u>	29
Appendix A - Threatened and Endangered Species Survey	32
Appendix B - Public Comments on the EA for the Mid-Plume Constriction Area Remediation.....	184
Appendix C - Batcho & Kauffman Associates Archeological Site Survey for BK 63	186

Figures

Figure 1 - Location	2
Figure 2 - County Vicinity.....	3
Figure 3 - Groundwater Contamination Plume.....	4
Figure 4 - Groundwater Plume Hydrogeological Features	5
Figure 5 - MPCA Cross-Section.....	7
Figure 6 - Administrative Control	8
Figure 7 - MPCA Well Locations and Vicinity for Proposed Remediation Plan	9
Figure 8 - Detailed MPCA Location Map	10
Figure 9 - Plume-Front Remediation System, Well Location, and Conceptual Design.....	12
Figure 10 - Water Supply and Distribution System.....	13
Figure 11 - Electrical Distribution System	14

List of Abbreviations

ac- acres
bgs- below ground surface
BLM- Bureau of Land Management
CFR- Code of Federal Regulations
cm- centimeters
CMS- Corrective Measures Study
dB(A)- decibels
DMN- N-nitrodimethylamine
EA- Environmental Assessment
EIS- Environmental Impact Statement
EPA- Environmental Protection Agency
FBR- flow-banded rhyolite
ft- feet
FY- Fiscal Year
gpm- gallons per minute
hr- hour
in- inches
JDMB- Jornada del Muerto Basin
km- kilometers
lpm- liters per minute
m- meters
MPCA- mid-plume constriction area
mph- miles per hour
NARA- National Archives and Records Administration
NASA- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NDMA- N-nitrosodimethylamine
NM- New Mexico
NMAC- New Mexico Administrative Code
NMED- New Mexico Environment Department
PCE- perchloroethene
ppm- parts per million
ppmw- parts per million by weight
PSL- Physical Science Laboratory
RCRA- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RFI- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation
SEO- State Engineer Office
TCE- trichloroethene
TDS- Total Dissolved Solids
TX- Texas
UVOX- ultraviolet/oxidation unit
WBFZ- Western Boundary Fault Zone
WSTF- White Sands Test Facility

1.0 Purpose and Need

The NASA White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) is located in south central New Mexico (Figures 1 and 2). Groundwater contamination is present at WSTF due to historical operations utilizing hypergolic propellants and industrial cleaning solvents. The proposed MPCA remediation system is intended to control threats to human health and the environment near the center of a groundwater contamination plume within the WSTF aquifer. The contaminants of concern at the plume-front and MPCA include N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), N-nitrodimethylamine (DMN), and several volatile organic compounds. The volatile organic compounds of concern are perchloroethene (PCE), trichloroethene (TCE), and several Freons. The WSTF groundwater contamination plume is approximately 6,095 m (20,000 ft) in length, 805 m (2,640 ft) in width (at the mid-plume) and 215 m (700 ft) in depth. The plume outer boundaries (shown using TCE concentrations) and hydrogeological features are provided in Figures 3 and 4. Investigations indicate that the contamination has an elongated east to west pattern. This is caused by a strong east to west hydraulic gradient between the San Andres Mountains recharge areas to the east, and the Jornada del Muerto Basin (JDMB) to the west. The groundwater plume consists of three general areas: the source areas, mid-plume constriction area, and the plume-front area.

Predictive model simulations indicate that flow interception and the removal of contaminants at the MPCA is critical to expedite plume remediation, isolate the plume-front area from upgradient source areas, and minimize contaminant transport to the plume-front area. High contaminant concentrations within the plume are currently upgradient (east) of the MPCA. Remediation of the upgradient contaminants prior to entering the plume-front area is particularly important with respect to the primary health-risk contaminant NDMA. Plume remediation at the MPCA would provide high contaminant mass extraction, mitigate contaminant transport to the plume-front area, contain a northwest trending contaminant lobe, and effectively minimize potential risks to human health and the environment.

Two hydrogeologic groundwater flow barriers have been identified on the WSTF pediment slope within the mid-plume, semi-confined, fractured bedrock aquifer. To the north, the northwest-southeast trending flow-banded rhyolite (FBR) unit with low permeability and transmissivity restricts groundwater flow. Groundwater sample analyses within the FBR indicate no detectable contaminant concentrations. To the south, a second flow barrier is created by andesite that has been altered to impermeable clay, promoting low hydraulic conductivities and no detectable contaminant concentrations. These barriers combine to form the narrow MPCA. These barriers result in a natural confining area to contaminant flow both to the north and south.

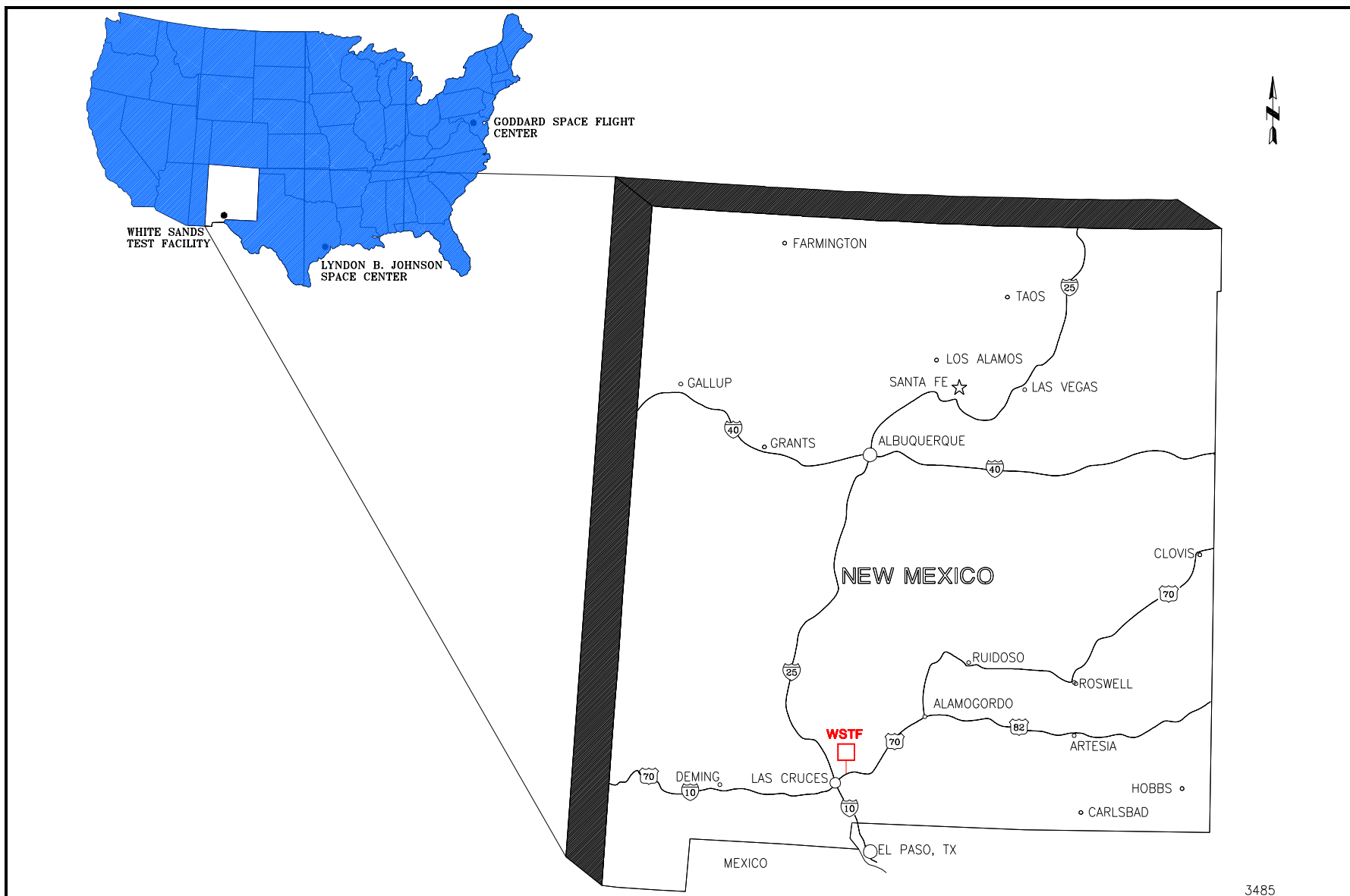


Figure 1- Location

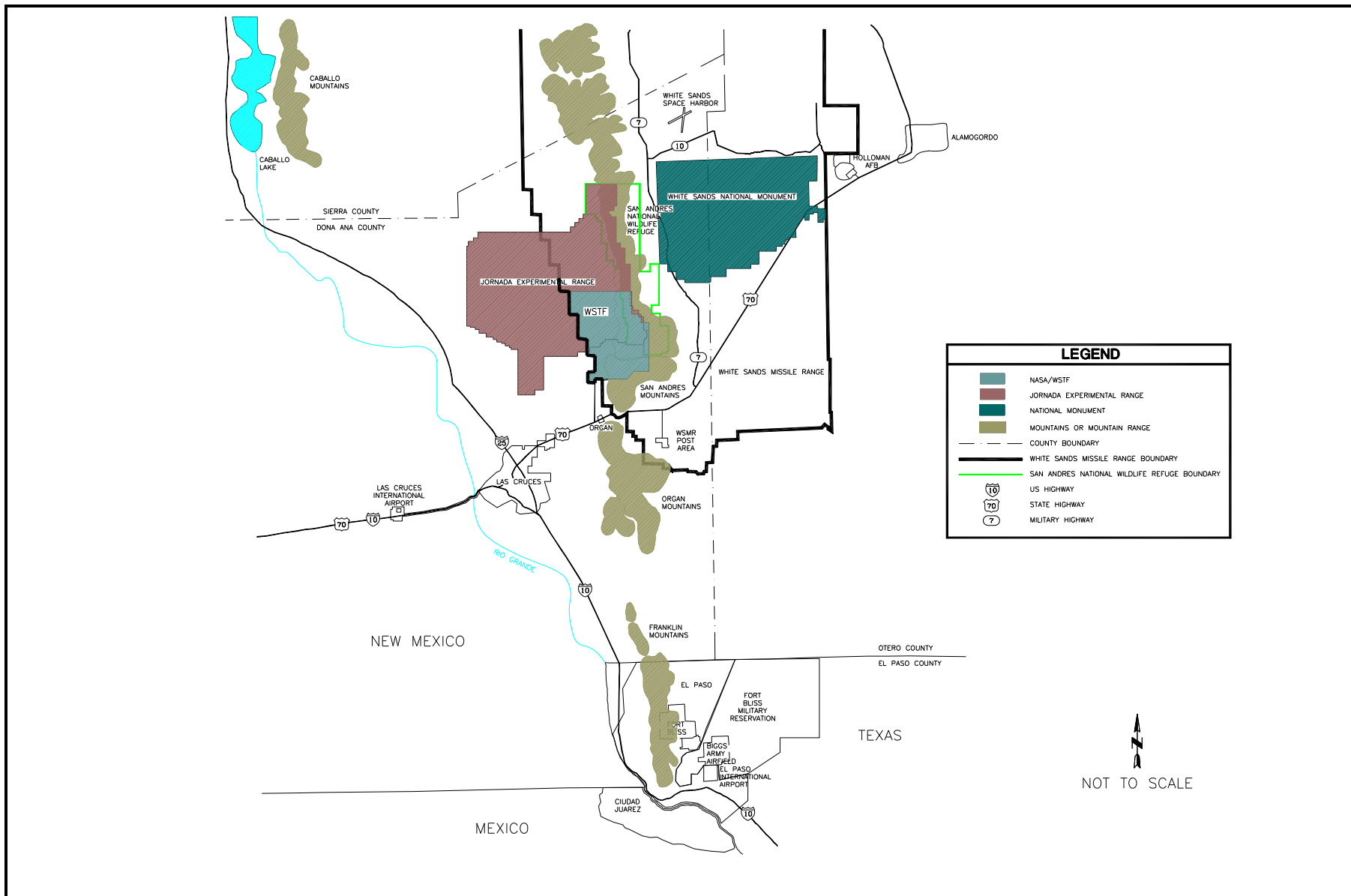


Figure 2- County Vicinity

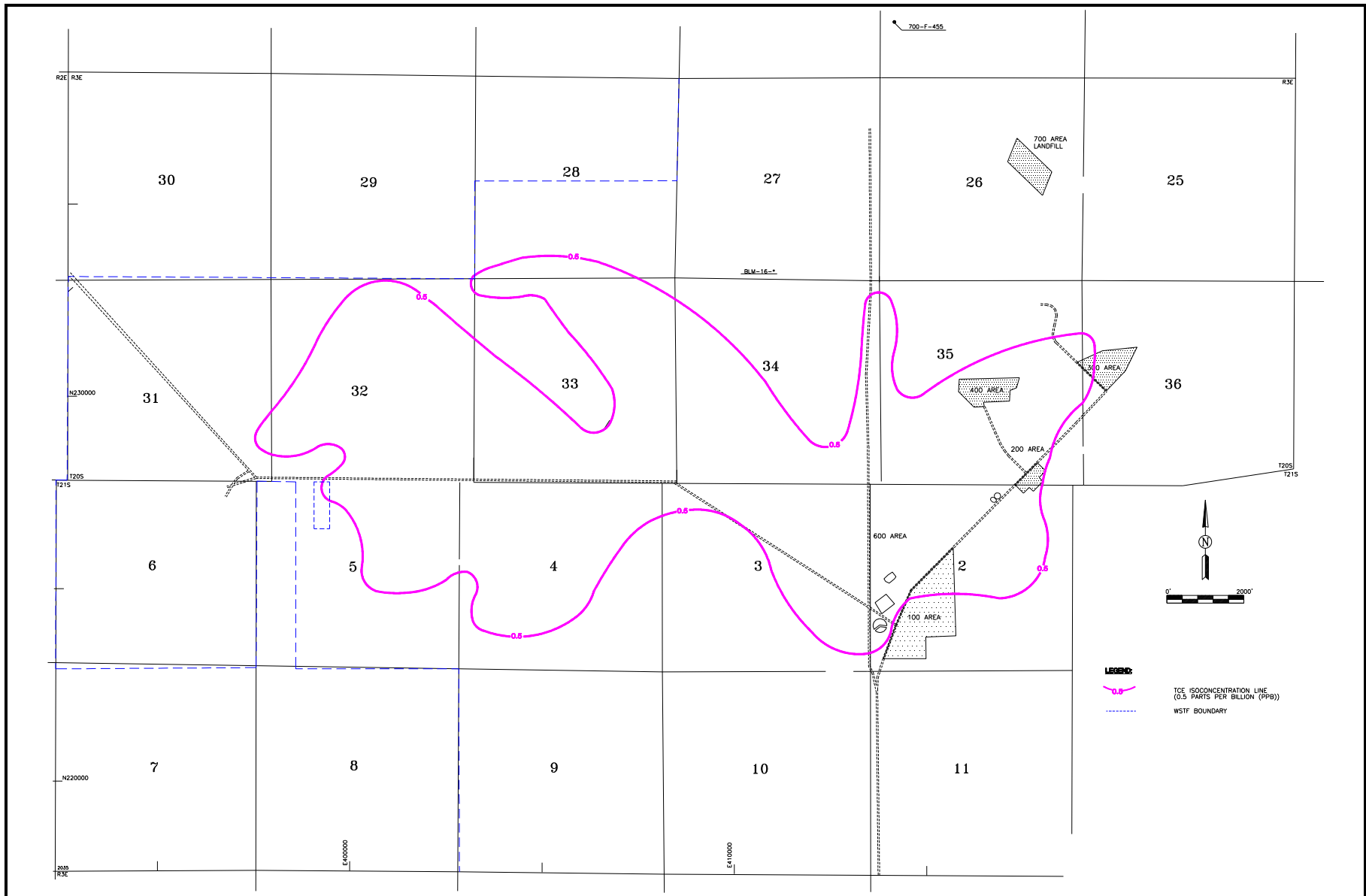


Figure 3- Groundwater Contamination Plume

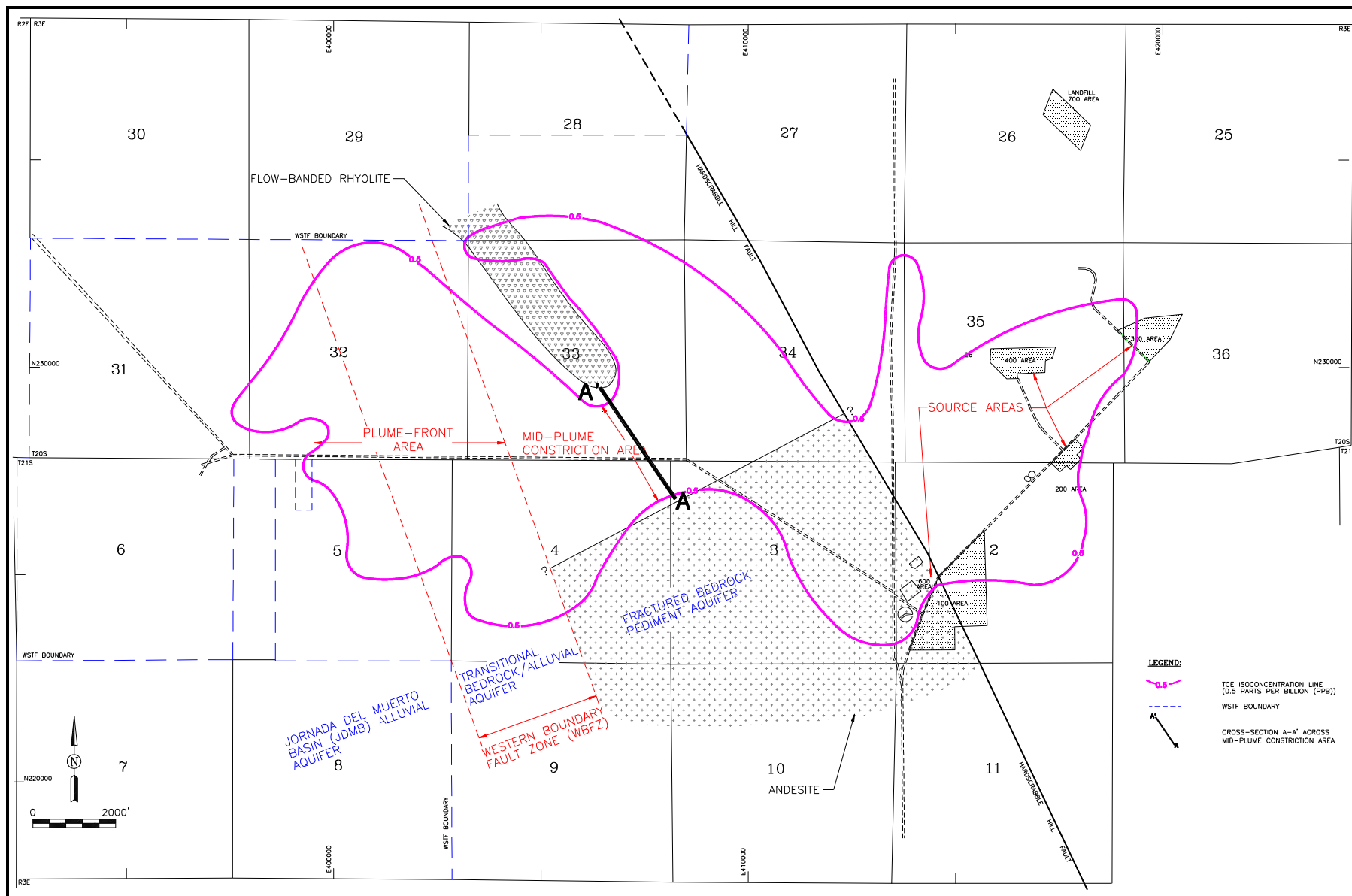


Figure 4- Groundwater Plume Hydrogeological Features

The FBR forms a distinct hydrostratigraphic unit that is fundamental in creating the MPCA. The depth of the aquifer in the MPCA is approximately coincident with fractured bedrock at 98-107 m (320-350 ft) below ground surface (bgs). A detailed cross-section of the MPCA is provided in Figure 5. The cross-section location is provided on Figures 4 and 9.

NASA maintains administrative control over land underlain by groundwater contamination (Figure 6). This land includes parcels owned by the U.S. Department of Defense, BLM, the State of New Mexico, and NASA. NASA's ownership or co-use control of this land precludes water extraction for the purpose of domestic or commercial use. The parcels of land proposed for the MPCA project include Sections 33 and 34 of T20S, R3E, and Sections 3, 4, and 5 of T21S, R3E. The WSTF buffer zone (approximately ten square miles west of the industrial facility) has isolated the facility from potential receptors of groundwater contamination. However, NASA instituted the plume-front containment project, with the proposed MPCA interception and remediation effort, to effectively mitigate plume migration, extract and treat contaminated water, and minimize risks to potential receptors and the environment.

2.0 Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Proposed Action

The proposed MPCA action would contain contaminant mass flux to the western plume-front area by placing extraction wells at the narrow MPCA. This approach would form an effective barrier to contaminant transport. NASA proposes to install a series of five extraction wells and supporting above ground and sub-grade piping, electrical supply systems, access roads, and a possible pretreatment substation at the narrow MPCA to augment plume-front remediation efforts by eliminating westward contaminant mass flux. High contaminant concentrations and low groundwater volumes are particularly advantageous for remediation in the MPCA. Figure 7 provides the general area for the proposed locations of the extraction wells and piping. The proposed locations may be modified based on seismic analysis and discovery of a fracture system that would result in improved extraction. However, any new well locations would remain in the general MPCA area shown in Figure 7. A close-up drawing of the MPCA well locations, with proposed piping and electrical routes, is provided in Figure 8. An MPCA interim measure evaluation has been completed for this project. Using computer modeling, NASA has determined that mid-plume interception and treatment of the groundwater contamination is feasible. This information was not available at the time the final EA for the plume-front remediation plan was completed.

Groundwater extracted from the MPCA would either be treated at the plume-front remediation system or pretreated on a reduced-scale at a substation within the

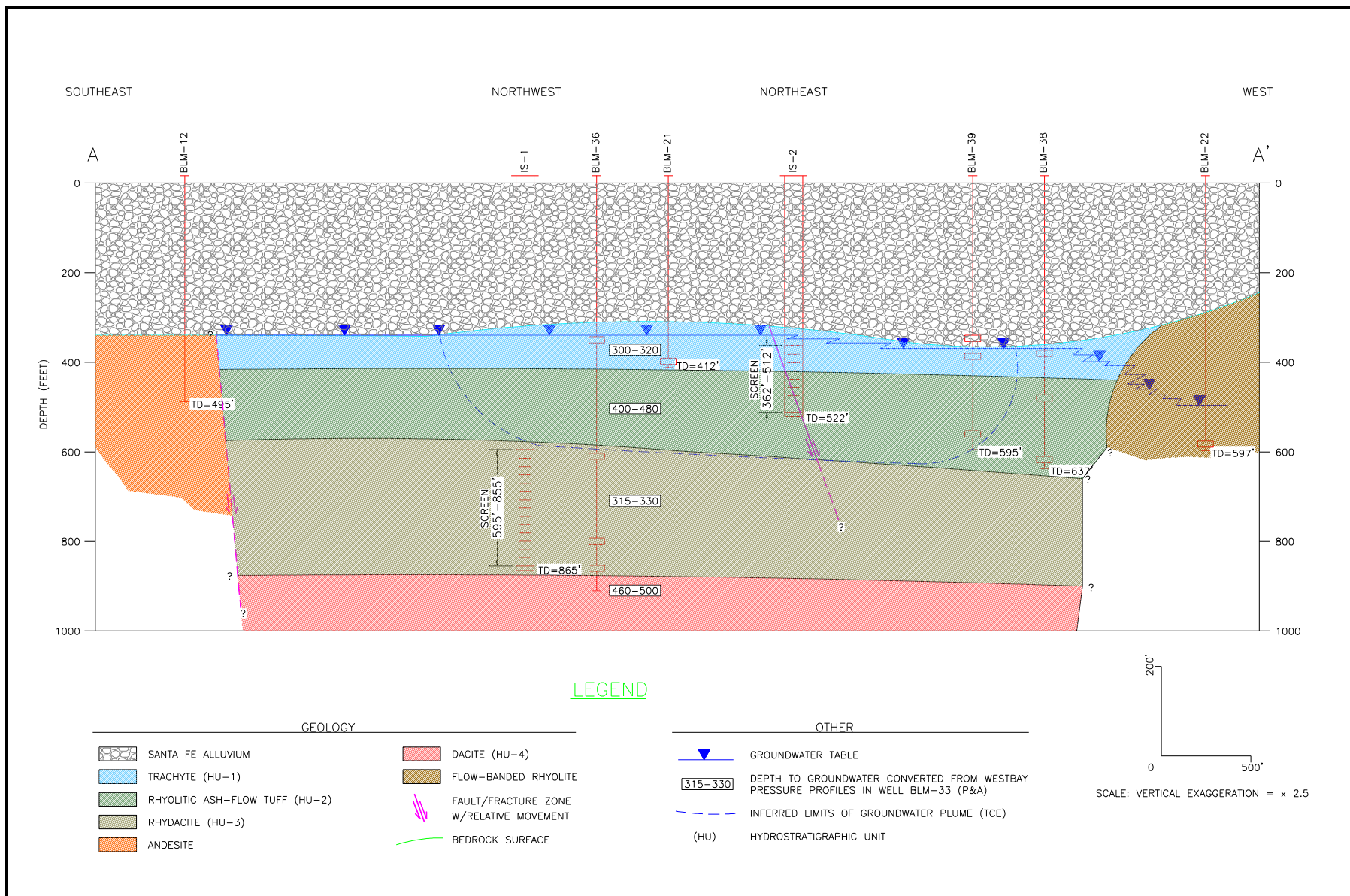


Figure 5 - MPCA Cross-Section

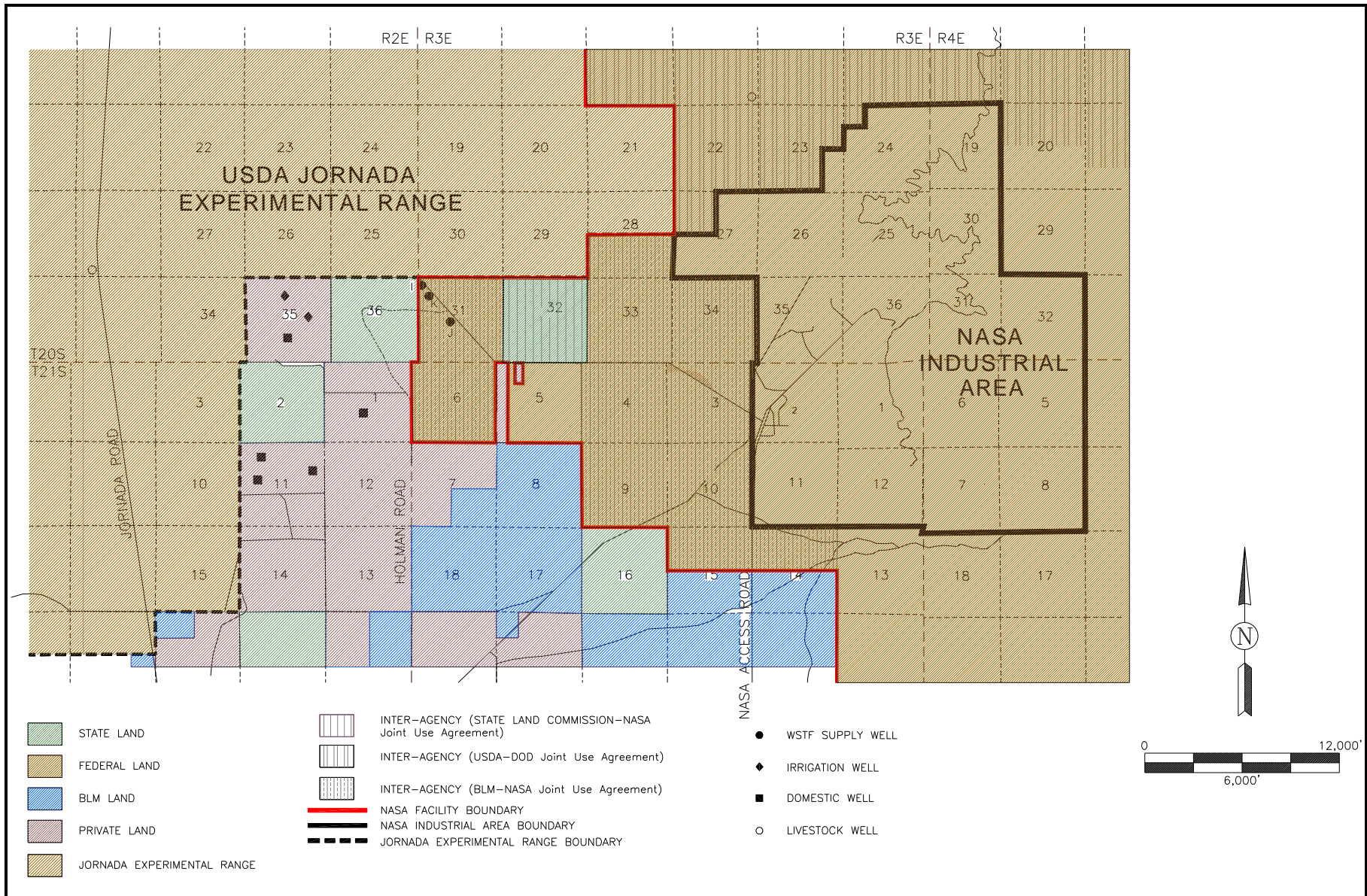


Figure 6 - Administrative Control

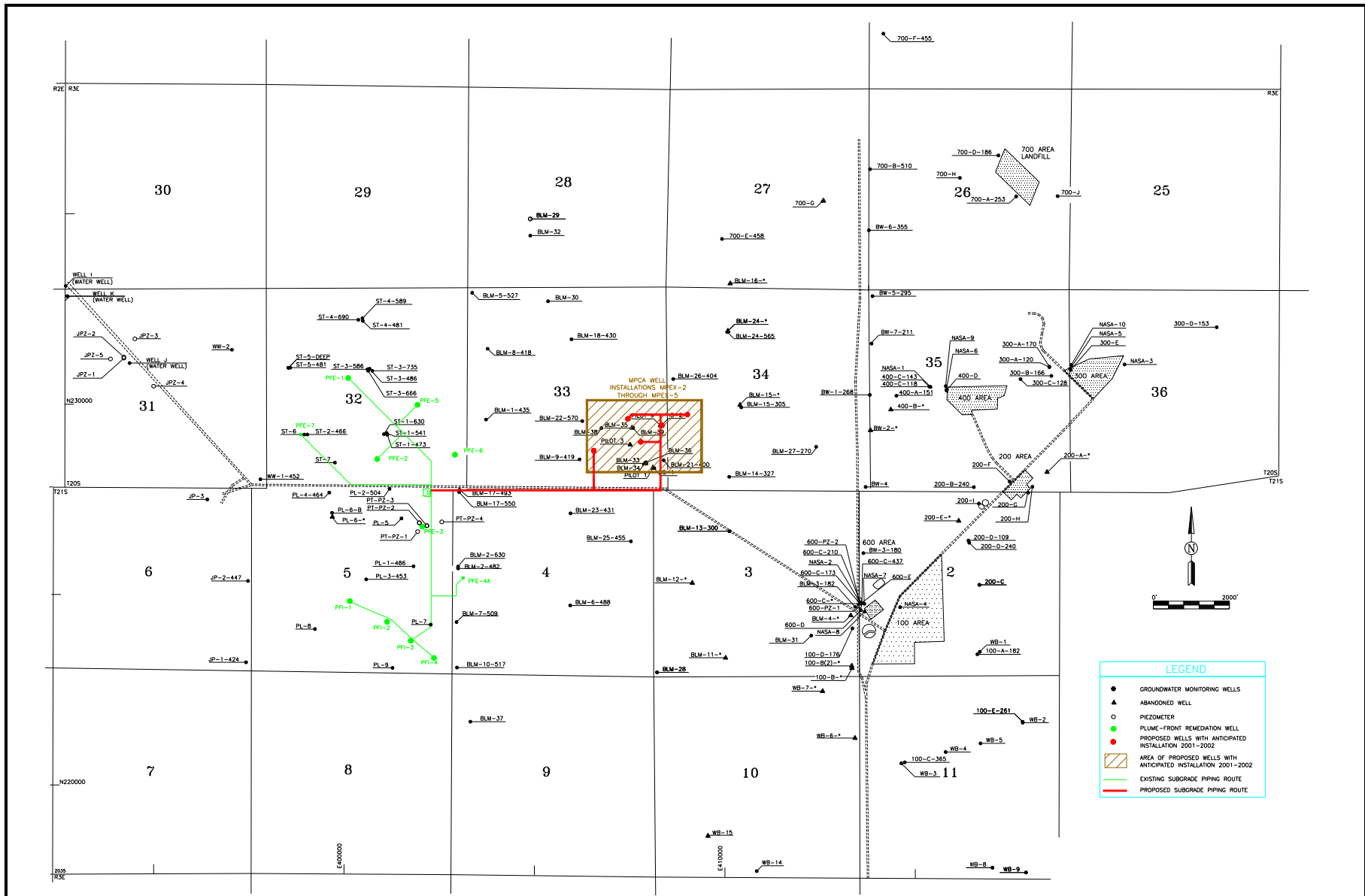
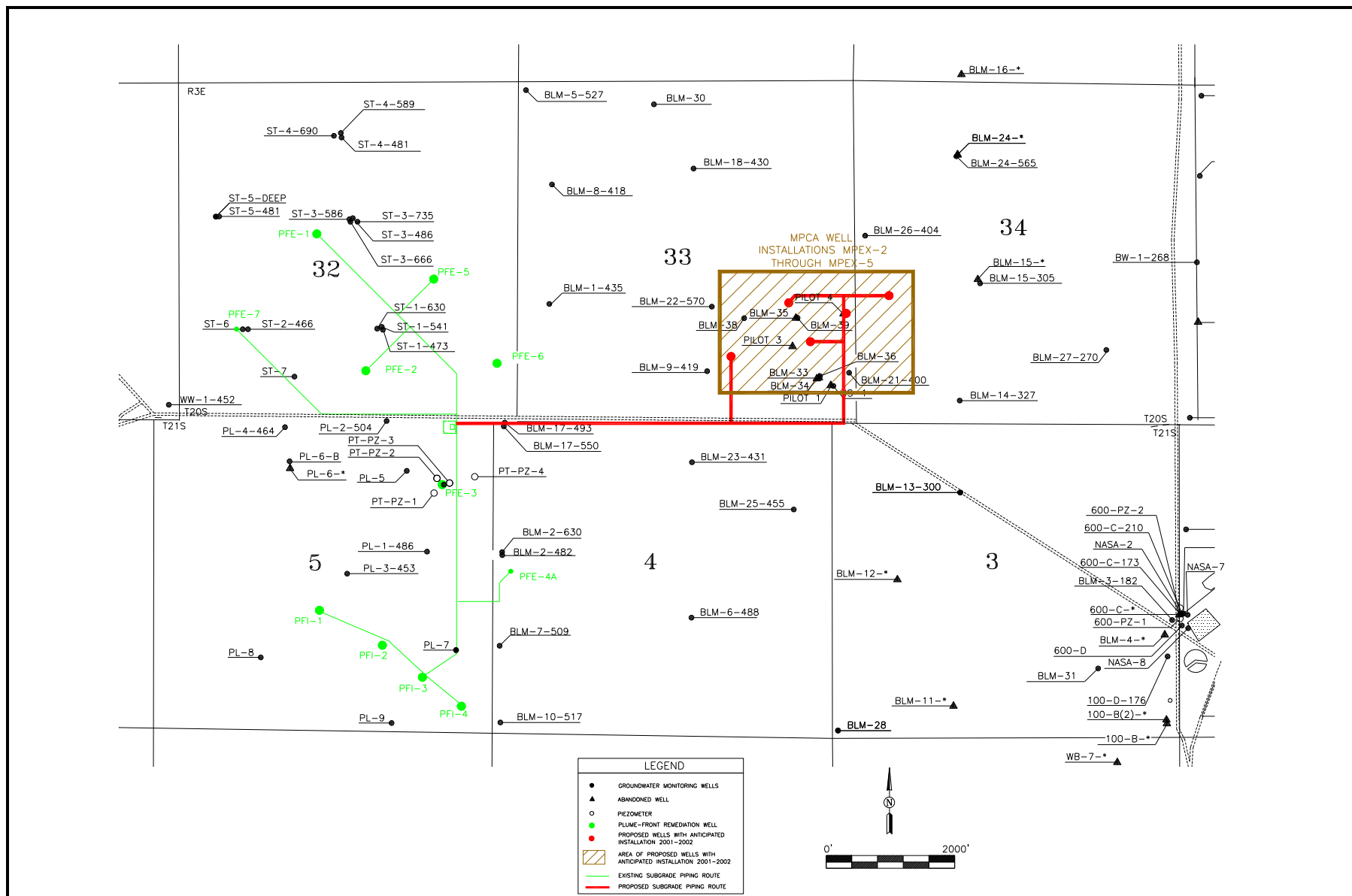


Figure 7 - MPCA Well Locations and Vicinity for Proposed Remediation Plan



MPCA. The pretreatment substation, if necessary, would be located at the junction combining the five extraction well's piping system into one pipeline leading to the plume-front treatment station. Even if pretreated, the MPCA groundwater (approximately 379 lpm (100 gpm)) would still be transported via pipeline to the plume-front remediation system where it would be combined with approximately 4,164 lpm (1,100 gpm) of contaminated water from the plume-front. Approximately 4,542 lpm (1,200 gpm) would then be treated to applicable groundwater standards using an ultraviolet/oxidation (UV/OX) unit (primarily for NDMA and DMN) and air strippers (for volatile organic compounds). The treated water would then be injected to the southwest of the WSTF plume-front area as specified by an NMED-approved Discharge Plan (DP-1255).

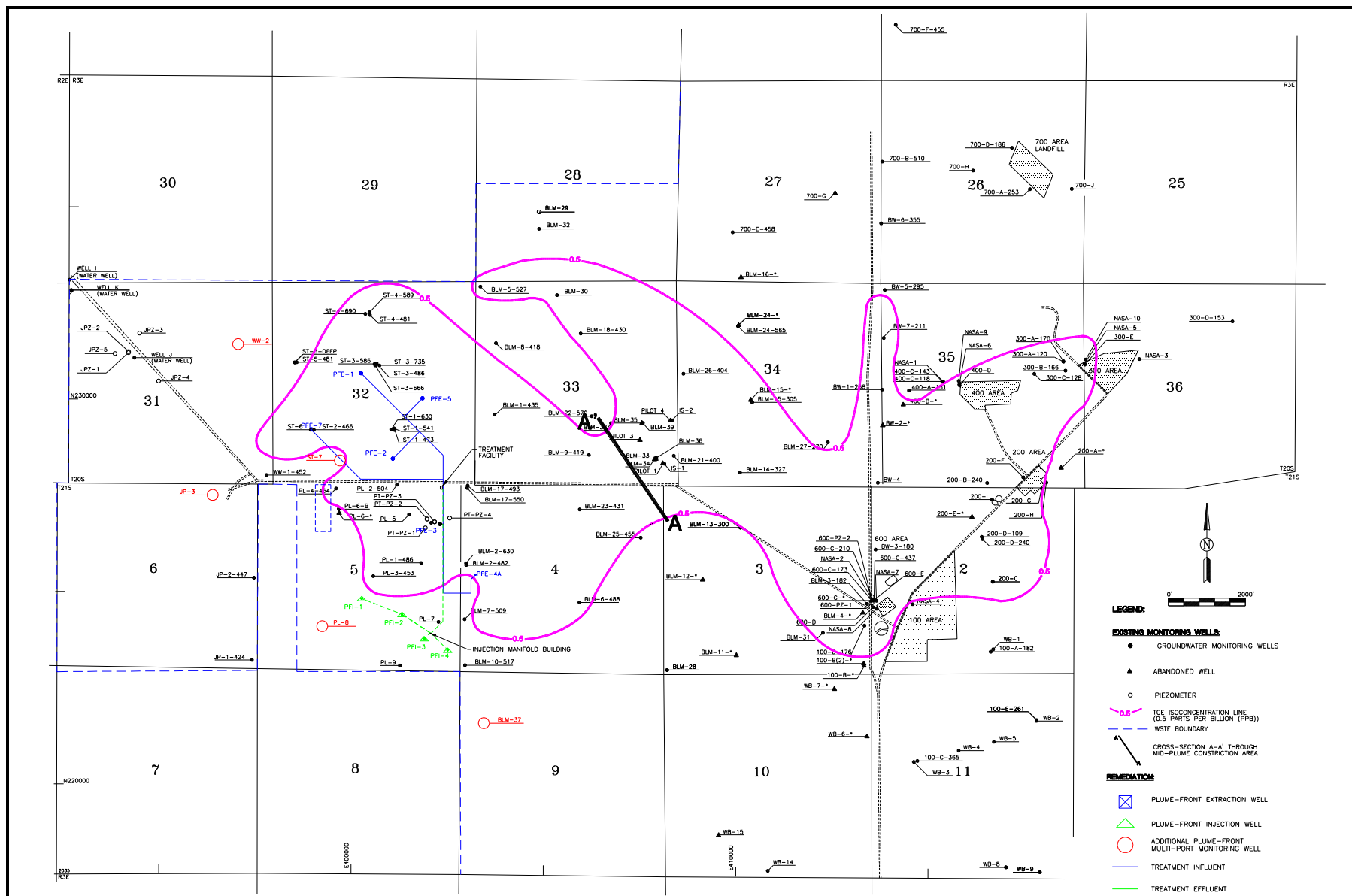
This proposal is the most technically and economically desirable alternative based on the following:

- the plume-front remediation system (Figure 9) utilizes a proven treatment technology and the MPCA remediation project would use an identical system;
- the system would remove contaminant mass at the MPCA location, isolate the plume-front area from source area contaminants, intercept and mitigate westward contaminant transport, contain the northwest trending contaminant lobe, and effectively enhance plume-front remediation efforts;
- electrical power and water could be extended from existing WSTF systems located less than one mile from the site (Figures 10 and 11);
- construction of the proposed MPCA project would utilize a land use agreement with the BLM which allows NASA to construct and operate with minimal inter-government agency interaction; and,
- the project location would be remote and not accessible to the general public.

2.2 Other Alternatives

2.2.1 Full-Scale Groundwater Remediation

NASA has determined that performing full-scale groundwater remediation activities is not currently a feasible alternative to plume-front and MPCA containment and treatment. As an integral part of compliance with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued §3008(h) Administrative Order on Consent, NASA has prepared a preliminary Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI) and Corrective Measures Study (CMS). These reports provide several options for full-scale remediation activities, but State and Federal regulatory agencies have not approved the final RFI and CMS. Therefore, the alternative of full-scale remediation is not currently viable due to regulatory concerns, the extensive groundwater contamination plume, and hydrogeological concerns regarding remediation in fractured bedrock. However, full-scale remediation may eventually be phased-in



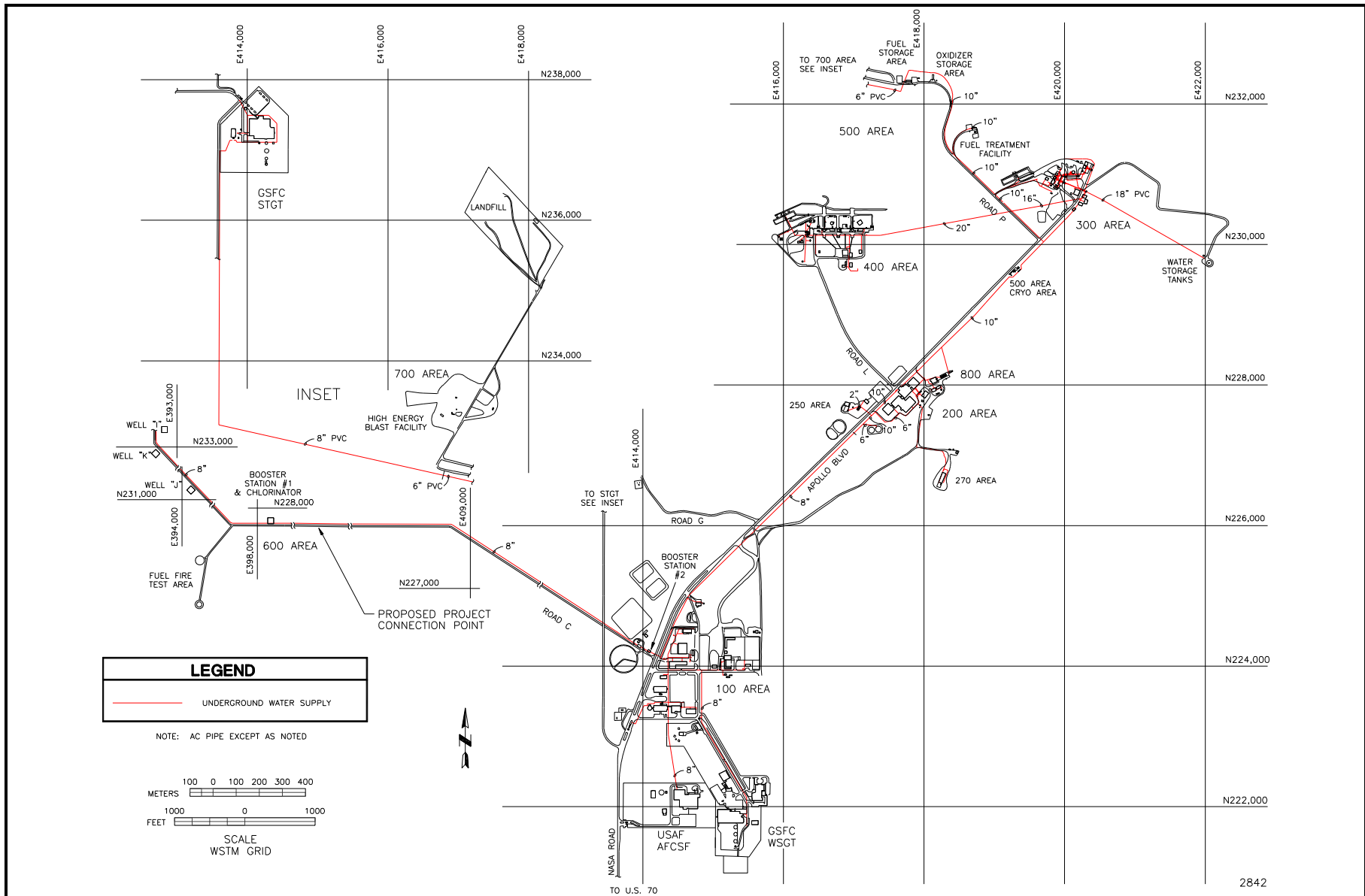


Figure 10 - Water Supply and Distribution System

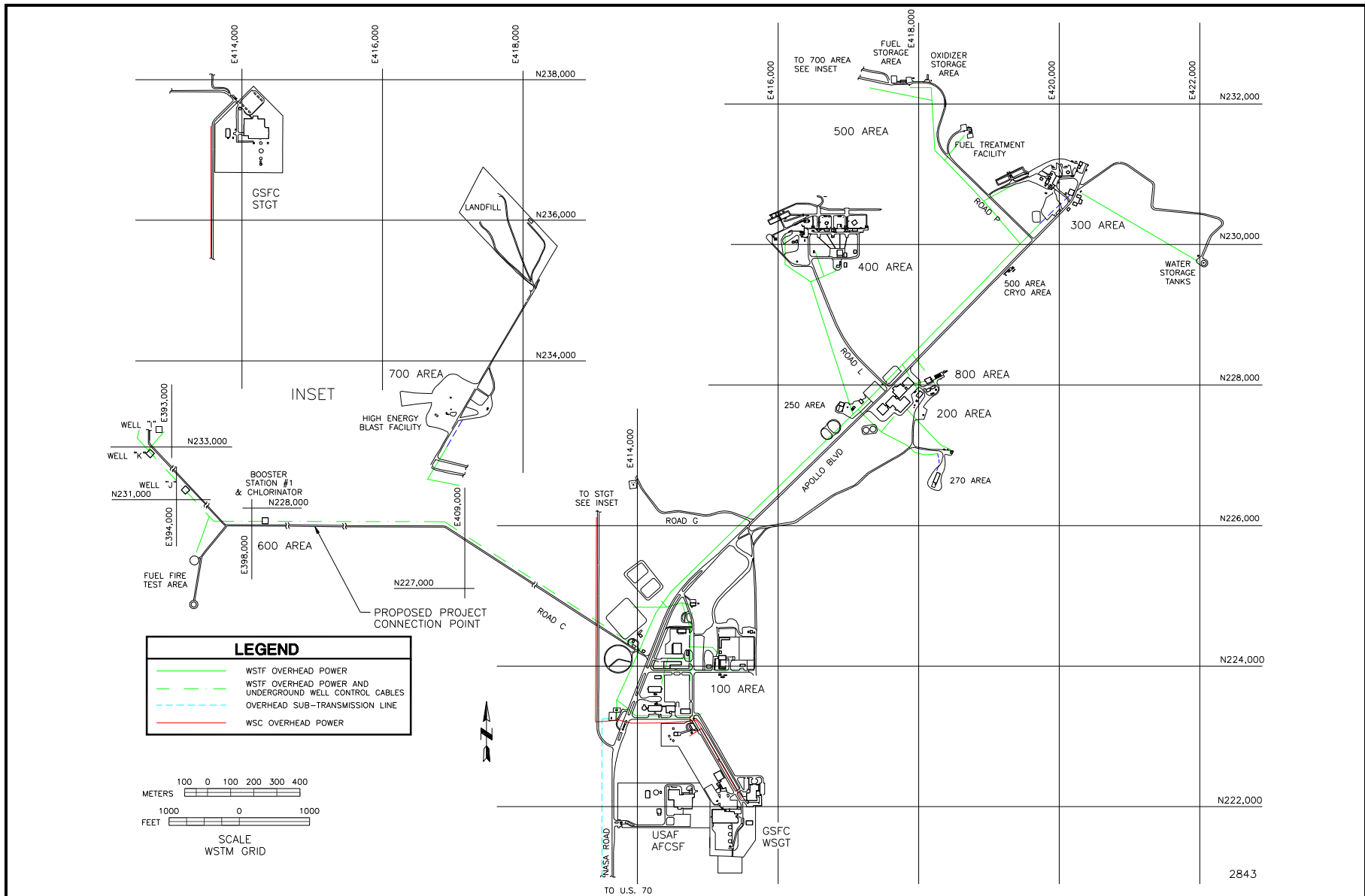


Figure 11 - Electrical Distribution System

over time at several source areas as part of an approved CMS and with full regulatory concurrence.

2.3 No-Action

NASA has evaluated the No-Action alternative. If the No-Action alternative were selected, NASA would continue to implement a groundwater remediation system in the plume-front area to prevent further migration of contaminated groundwater. The groundwater treatment would be limited to the plume-front area and contaminant transport through the MPCA would not be prevented. In addition, the northwest trending contaminant lobe would not be contained and the upgradient source area contamination would not be isolated from the plume-front area. State and Federal regulatory requirements have mandated that groundwater plumes be contained to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. If the No-Action alternative were selected, the current groundwater monitoring program and plume-front remediation project would continue, but the MPCA interception objectives of NASA and the State and Federal regulatory agencies would not be achieved. Therefore, the No-Action alternative is not considered a viable alternative.

3.0 Affected Environment

WSTF operates as a field test installation under the NASA Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas (TX) with the primary purpose of providing testing services to NASA for the United States space program. However, the facility also provides test service and support for the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, private industry, and foreign government agencies. The primary WSTF mission is to develop, qualify, and test the limits of spacecraft propulsion systems and subsystems.

WSTF is located 26 kilometers (km) (16 mi) northeast of Las Cruces, NM, and 104 km (65 mi) north of El Paso, TX. Geographic coordinates of WSTF are 32°30'30" north latitude and 106°36'30" west longitude. The installation occupies over 250 km² (60,000 acres (ac)) along the western flank of the San Andres Mountains, one of the most prominent north-south ranges in southwestern New Mexico. Figures 1 and 2 provide the general location of the facility. The following sections detail environmental information associated with the proposed MPCA groundwater extraction and remediation project. Additional site-specific environmental information is available from the WSTF Environmental Resources Document (RD-WSTF-0025), the WSTF Master Plan (1994), and the EA for the Plume-Front Remediation Plan.

3.1 Geology and Soils

The proposed site is located in the Mexican Highland Section of the Basin and Range Province within a major tectonic feature referred to as the Rio Grande Rift Zone. This extensional rift zone, which extends from southern Colorado to northern Mexico, is characterized by north-trending mountain ranges separated by intermontane basins.

The area soils are primarily the sandy to silty, loamy soils of the Doña Ana-Regan associations (United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service classification). These soils are typically associated with alluvial fan deposits. The ground surface in the study area has abundant shallow, associated arroyos.

3.1.1 Stratigraphy

Bedrock locally crops-out adjacent and east of the WSTF industrial test areas (the primary source areas for groundwater contamination). Bedrock stratigraphic units include Pennsylvanian to Permian-age limestone, sandstone, siltstone, and shales to the east within the WSTF test areas, and Tertiary volcanic rocks to the west. The two bedrock lithologies are juxtaposed along the regional northwest-trending Hardscrabble Hill Fault formed as a result of Tertiary Basin and Range extensional tectonics. Bedrock is covered with a veneer of alluvium, which increases in thickness to the west from a few feet in the vicinity of the test areas to over 120 m (400 ft) near the Western Boundary Fault Zone (WBFZ). This alluvium consists of Quaternary alluvial fan deposits of the Santa Fe Group derived from the San Andres Mountains to the east.

The Santa Fe Group alluvium is consolidated to unconsolidated, poorly sorted gravel with a matrix of sand, silt, and clay. Surface geology in the plume-front and MPCA areas consists of Quaternary mid-to-distal alluvial fan Santa Fe Group deposits made up of limestone, siltstone, shale, rhyolite, andesite, and granite clasts. The thickness of the alluvial deposits in the mid-plume vicinity increases from approximately 76 m (250 ft) on the bedrock pediment to in excess of 122 m (400 ft) within the JDMB (NASA, 1996).

Tertiary volcanic bedrock units within the plume-front and MPCA areas consist of variable acidic volcanic rocks. Rhyolitic tuffs predominate and consist of crystal-vitric-lithic ash-flow tuffs. Correlative lithologies have been reported in association with the Organ Mountains Intrusive Complex (Seager, 1981). The FBR volcanic unit represents the most texturally distinct lithology of the west pediment area. The FBR forms a distinct hydrostratigraphic unit that is fundamental in creating the hydrogeological feature referred to as the MPCA.

3.1.2 Structure

Two types of geologic deformation are recognized within WSTF boundaries. The oldest and least prevalent deformation consists of west to northwest-trending folding and faulting associated with the Late Cretaceous to Early Tertiary Laramide Orogeny. This compressional deformation type is confined to the western San Andres Mountains, and is exposed within the Bear Peak Fold and Thrust Zone (Seager, 1981).

The second deformation type consists of Late Tertiary Basin and Range normal faulting and is significant relative to the plume-front and MPCA stabilization activities. East-west extensional forces resulted in the formation of north-trending structural depressions and adjacent fault-bound mountains from the Oligocene period to present. Numerous

subsurface Basin and Range-related normal faults have been inferred from seismic and well log data throughout the site, including the Hardscrabble Hill Fault (NASA, 1996). The most significant expression of normal faulting at WSTF is the WBFZ, which is coincident with the plume-front and MPCA areas. The WBFZ is a north-northwest trending, regional-scale series of normal half-graben faults that offset the top of the bedrock by greater than 610 m (2,000 ft) over a width of 610 m (2,000 ft). Each normal fault within the series dips steeply to the west.

3.2 Climate and Air

The proposed project area is in a predominantly Chihuahuan Desert Grassland climate. Abundant sunshine, low humidity, slight rainfall, and a large day-to-night temperature variance characterize this climate. The mountainous terrain in the area influences the climate by blocking the incursion of moisture laden maritime air masses. Cold air drainage down-slope causes a wide variation in the minimum temperatures experienced in the area. Precipitation, greatest in July and August, averages 25.4 centimeters (cm) (10 inches(in)) annually. The growing season is about 200 days per year.

A predominant factor causing wind variability in the area lies in the effects of the mountain ranges. Daily up-slope and nocturnal drainage winds of less than 24 km/hr (hour) (15 miles per hour (mph)), due to thermal gradients, are common on the slopes of the mountain's arid foothills. The diurnal winds are caused by cooling of the upper atmosphere in the mountains at night. While in the basin, air is warmed by the temperature of the earth, resulting in surface air movements from the mountain and foothill areas to the valley floor. During daylight hours, the opposite occurs: the sun warms the air over the mountains resulting in surface air movement from the valley floor to the mountain and foothill areas. The winds may reach velocities as high as 65 km/hr (40 mph) when a pressure gradient and a thermal gradient lie in the same direction.

The ambient air quality and weather conditions in this area are excellent. The atmospheric visibility "seeing" conditions are in the 80-160 km (50-100 mi) range. However, Doña Ana County, in which the proposed project is located, has been designated as an Air Quality Maintenance Area for carbon monoxide and total suspended particulate matter. Although the county itself is lightly populated and relatively pollution free, air quality is affected by the southern cities of El Paso, TX and Juarez, Mexico.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Air Quality Bureau does not regulate emissions from air stripping operations during remediation activities. These emissions are considered RCRA-related emissions that could be regulated under Subparts AA, BB, or CC of Title 40, Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) §264 (National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)). The following discussion addresses each of the three subparts.

3.2.1 Subpart AA

EPA has established air emissions standards which apply to owners and operators of facilities that treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste (NARA, 1998). These standards apply to process vents associated with various treatment processes, including air stripping, that manage hazardous waste with organic concentrations of at least 10 parts per million by weight (ppmw). Subpart AA standards apply to operations that are conducted in units subject to the permitting requirements of 40 CFR §270, or in hazardous waste recycling units that are located at RCRA-permitted facilities. Subpart AA is not applicable because the plume-front and MPCA remediation system would not manage groundwater with 10 ppmw concentrations of regulated contaminants.

3.2.2 Subpart BB

The Subpart BB standards apply to equipment leaks that contain or contact hazardous waste with organic concentrations of at least 10% by weight. These standards apply to operations that are conducted in units subject to the permitting requirements of 40 CFR §270, or in hazardous waste recycling units that are located at RCRA-permitted facilities. The plume-front and MPCA remediation system would not manage groundwater with this concentration of organics.

3.2.3 Subpart CC

The Subpart CC air emissions standards for units that treat groundwater with tanks, surface impoundments, or containers do not apply. Regulations (40 CFR §264.1080) state that a waste management unit that is used solely for on-site treatment or storage of hazardous waste that is generated as the result of implementing remedial activities is exempt from Subpart CC requirements (NARA, 1998).

3.3 Water

The proposed remediation project would comply with all requirements of the New Mexico Water Quality Control Regulations (20 NMAC 6.2). A discharge plan application package (DP-1255) has been previously approved by the NMED Groundwater Bureau that allows the injection of remediated groundwater near the plume-front location. DP-1255 would require minor modifications to incorporate supplemental MPCA information. However, this supplemental information would not modify the injected groundwater quality or quantities as currently specified by DP-1255.

NASA would obtain all required well construction permits from the State Engineer Office (SEO). The SEO has numerous stipulations for permit requirements dependent on the type of well being drilled (e.g., pilot boreholes, extraction wells, injection wells, monitoring wells). Permit information required by the SEO can include: the need for pollution control or recovery operations; withdrawal and discharge points; the maximum annual water withdrawal; the underground water source; the amount, method, and type of discharge; the estimated project completion time; and borehole records after the conclusion of drilling activities.

The site access and NASA well roads are subject to flooding at arroyo crossings. Culverts are not placed at the smaller arroyos, and the runoff from heavy thunderstorms results in a swift, shallow flow across the road surface which subsides after the storm passes. There are few definite stream channels which extend from the west mountainside onto the alluvial plain. Much of the runoff from the west mountain basin begins to infiltrate the coarse alluvial plain deposits within a mile of the slope break. Only very heavy rainfall causes the runoff to extend beyond the mountainside. Stream floods typically remain within the semi-permanent channels on the west mountain flank and then tend to flow as a sheet-flood onto the alluvial plain.

3.3.1 Aquifer Description

The depth of the aquifer in the MPCA is approximately coincident with fractured bedrock at 98-107 m (320-350 ft) bgs. The bedrock pediment slope comprises Oligocene felsic volcanic rocks overlain by coalescent alluvial fan deposits of the Tertiary-Quaternary Santa Fe Group. The aquifer is variably unconfined to confined where degraded volcanic rocks form a discontinuous clay boundary.

Two hydrogeologic groundwater flow barriers have been identified on the WSTF pediment slope within the mid-plume, semi-confined, fractured bedrock aquifer (Figure 4). Secondary porosity consisting of fractures with dips ranging from 45 to 65 degrees with minor separation predominates within the aquifer. These barriers combine to form the narrow MPCA. To the north, the northwest-southeast trending FBR unit with low permeability and transmissivity restricts groundwater flow. Groundwater sample analyses within the FBR indicate no detectable contaminant concentrations. To the south, a second flow barrier is created by andesite that has been altered to impermeable clay, promoting low hydraulic conductivities and no detectable contaminant concentrations. The barriers result in a natural confining area to contaminant flow both to the north and south. In the MPCA, groundwater occurs at a depth of 90 m (300 ft) bgs and is coincident with bedrock (Figure 5).

Aquifer conditions in the vicinity of the plume-front and MPCA vary from unconfined to leaky confined. Leaky confined conditions are generally prevalent within, and to the west, of the WBFZ. Discontinuous confining layers are interpreted to comprise clay or cemented alluvial horizons. Hydraulic conductivity and transmissivity values for the alluvial aquifer are typically several orders of magnitude greater than for the fractured bedrock aquifer.

3.3.2 Groundwater Movement

Groundwater flows from east to west through the MPCA with an average hydraulic gradient of 0.02 m/m (0.02 ft/ft). Four hydrostratigraphic units which dip gently to the west are identified in the volcanic bedrock (Figure 5). The uppermost two units (1 and 2) are a trachyte flow 15-18 m (50-60 ft) thick and a rhyolitic tuff 37-76 m (120-250 ft) thick which yield 3.8-19 lpm (1-5 gpm). The third unit is a series of interlayered rhyolite and rhyodacite flows 76-98 m (250-320 ft) thick with a 23-76 lpm (6-20 gpm) yield. At

the bottom of the section is a dacite of unknown thickness which yields <3.8 lpm (<1 gpm). The most productive hydrostratigraphic unit (3) is located at depths of 168 m (550 ft) to 259 m (850 ft) and was investigated as a potential target for MPCA interception by well IS-1 in September 1997.

3.3.3 Groundwater Recharge/Discharge

In 1997, well IS-1 was installed to a depth of 264 m (865 ft) in the MPCA to test the theory that contaminant flow was governed by conductive layers in the volcanic bedrock. The borehole was drilled near the center of the pinch-point of the groundwater contaminant plume and intersected four distinct hydrostratigraphic units (Figure 5). Aquifer tests (constant-rate and 4-step-pumping) on well IS-1 showed that the most conductive units in the immediate area are not laterally continuous and are positioned deeper than the groundwater contamination exists. The upper contaminated aquifer is in a non-conductive series of units that produces very little water (less than 19 lpm (5 gpm)). The hydraulic characteristics of the hydrostratigraphic units in the contaminated aquifer at well IS-1 do not fit the requirements of the groundwater model in being able to allow contamination to migrate to where it currently exists at the plume-front in the time that has elapsed. In addition, the water level in well IS-1 has remained greater than 52 m (170 ft) deeper than its pre-pumping level, which shows that this portion of the contaminant plume receives little recharge from groundwater flow travelling from the eastern end of the site. Surface flow and/or fracture flow were the only logical mechanisms that could have transported contamination from one end of the site, through the MPCA, to the plume-front.

The San Andres Mountains provide recharge to the bedrock and alluvial aquifers through the infiltration of precipitation into exposed bedrock fractures and faults. Mountain-front recharge is estimated to be 61,675 m³ to 246,700 m³ (50 to 200 ac-ft/mi) of mountain front annually (Wilson et. al. 1981; Geoscience Consultants, Ltd. 1995; NASA, 1997).

The nearest perennial surface water is the Rio Grande, located 24 km (15 mi) to the west within the Mesilla Bolson. Direct recharge by infiltration into the JDMB is low as a result of high evaporation, low precipitation, significant depths to groundwater, and the presence of thick lacustrine clays, which inhibit percolation. Minor point recharge areas are present on the pediment slope where WSTF has discharged excess water relatively continuously over the last 30 years. Approximately 90% of the groundwater utilized by WSTF is used for testing in the 300 and 400 Areas. The uncontaminated, spent test water is then discharged to grade and percolates into the adjacent arroyo to recharge the groundwater. A total of 111,010 m³ (90 ac-ft) annually is estimated to recharge the aquifer over a distance of 215 m (7,000 ft) downgradient of the 300 Area.

The current total groundwater discharge/pumpage of the JDMB aquifer is approximately 2,000 ac-ft per annum. Approximately 55% of the withdrawn water is used by small independent users, 33% by local water companies, 9% by WSTF, and 3% by the City of Las Cruces. Future predicted estimates for JDMB water usage/pumpage are expected to total 39,470,100 m³ (32,000 ac-ft) per annum by the year 2026, of which 55% would be

used by the City of Las Cruces, 28% by local water companies, and 17% by small independent users (of which 2% would be used by WSTF). The JDMB aquifer is not currently significantly stressed; however, the future population growth and expanded JDMB groundwater usage are anticipated to result in significant groundwater drawdown (NASA, 1996).

3.3.4 General Groundwater Quality

WSTF groundwater is classified as fresh to slightly saline and is characterized by elevated levels of sodium, sulfate, and bicarbonate (Wilson et. al. 1981; NASA, 1996). Total dissolved solid (TDS) concentrations range from 490 to 1,230 parts per million (ppm). Fluoride, iron, and manganese levels are generally low. Water hardness ranges from 24 to 320 ppm, and water pH values are slightly alkaline with values ranging from 7.2 to 8.3. Sulfate is the most abundant anion, with concentrations ranging from 185 to 600 ppm. Chloride and bicarbonate concentrations range from 15 to 126 ppm and 89 to 376 ppm, respectively. Nitrate levels are generally below 10 ppm. Concentrations of fluoride are usually less than 2 ppm. Dominant cations comprise the metals calcium, iron, magnesium, potassium, and sodium. Calcium concentrations range from 22 to 179 ppm. Magnesium and sodium concentrations range from 13 to 84 ppm and 28 to 500 ppm, respectively. Iron and potassium occur in trace amounts to 0.8 ppm and 9 ppm, respectively. Concentrations of sodium range from 30 to 157 ppm.

3.3.5 Background Metals Concentrations

Volume Four, Chapter Two, of the Draft RFI Report (NASA, 1996) provides discussions concerning observed concentrations of RCRA-regulated metals in groundwater samples. This chapter includes discussions of observed metals concentrations such as barium, lead, and selenium, which are indicative of naturally occurring levels in the JDMB. In addition, chromium detections are discussed and attributed to either naturally occurring levels or to published leaching problems associated with stainless steel monitoring well casing. The EPA and NMED comments to the Draft RFI Report (EPA) requested additional evaluations concerning these metals.

These comments have resulted in additional data evaluations and have supported the original RFI Report determinations. Final evaluations and statistical analyses will be presented with the revised RFI Report. Data collected from the plume-front wells do not indicate that metals concentrations are associated with groundwater contamination.

3.4 Cultural Resources

NASA ensures that early consideration is given to the protection of historic and archeological resources in the planning of any project. NASA has contracted several cultural resources studies by qualified professionals (Batcho & Kauffman Associates) from January 27, 1987 to August 30, 1994. These studies were performed to satisfy the

requirements of Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). Section 110 requires that Federal agencies assume responsibility for the preservation of historic properties that are owned or controlled by such agencies. Section 106 of the Act requires a Federal agency head with jurisdiction over a Federal, federally assisted, or federally licensed undertaking to take into account the effects of the agency's undertakings on properties included in, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, this review provides the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking prior to approval. The results of the surveys and all related investigations are reported to the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer and tracked by the WSTF contractor Environmental Department.

Archeological investigations at WSTF have found evidence of historical and pre-historical habitation, encampment, and subsistence. These sites have been recorded, inventoried, and mapped to prevent disturbance or destruction. The data suggest that most prehistoric archeological resources represent the remains of limited-use hunting, gathering, and processing camps. These sites are generally small and have a limited number of recognizable surface features. The area identified as BK 63 is the only known archeological site located within 200 m (656 ft) of the proposed well locations and construction activities. The boundary of the archeological site has been clearly marked with flagging tape, and it has been monitored during the scoping process for the proposed well sites and construction activities. According to current field information, BK 63 would not be endangered or disturbed by MPCA activities. The archeological report for BK 63 is provided in Appendix C. Additional site-wide archeological reports for non-MPCA areas are maintained by the contractor Environmental Department.

3.5 Biological Resources

3.5.1 Naturally Occurring

The biotic resources on the proposed sections are typical of that found in the arid southwest, a desert area with low rainfall and sparse vegetation. This area receives an average of 25.4 cm (10 in) of rain per year, making it difficult to suffice for agriculture; hence, as with all deserts and semi-arid areas, the overall species diversity is low.

Major vegetation within the area includes a combination of woody shrubs and grasses characteristic of the Chihuahuan Desertscrub Biotic Community. The proposed project's location is a xeric, poorly drained, and vegetatively homogenous area. Numerous well developed arroyos are present, but hidden from sight, within the low profile topography and vegetation. Water flows in a westward direction towards the Jornada Basin. Plant species richness is low relative to better drained upland slopes. Shrubs provide a microhabitat for warm season grasses and herptiles.

The proposed project area is found on the alluvial fan along the west side of the San Andres Mountains. This vegetation group contains burro grass (*Scleropogon brevifolius*), yucca (*Yucca* spp.), snakeweed (*Xanthocephalum sarothrae*), sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.), and honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*). While not as common, these areas may

include patches of various grama grasses (*Bouteloua* spp.). Dominant plant species are tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*), creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*), Mormon tea (*Ephedra trifurca*), littleleaf sumac (*Rhus microphylla*), night shade (*Solanum eleagnifolium*), narrow leaf globemallow (*Sphaeralcea angustifolium*), Western pink verbena (*Verbena ambrosifolia*), soap tree yucca (*Yucca elata*), and the desert Christmas cactus (*Opuntia leptocaulis*). The most abundant species of grasses are fluff grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*), tobosa grass (*Hilaria mutica*), and alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*). Ball cacti (*Coryphantha vivipara*) are located on slopes with limestone gravel. These cacti have not been seen in bloom (the most characterizing feature) to assist in differentiating between subspecies.

The proposed project area is considered to be a low affectability area. This area (Sections 33 and 34 of T20S, R3E, and Sections 3, 4, and 5 of T21S, R3E) receives little use by wildlife species because it has been physically altered by human disturbance or overgrazing, and provides reduced topographic relief and vegetation diversity associated with food and cover. However, this area may be a suitable foraging area for various species (e.g., deer, mice, song birds, and hunting raptors). The activities associated with past and current uses, and ecological make-up, limits its suitability as nesting or roosting habitat except for more common rodents, lizards, etc., that have adapted to the present habitat conditions.

3.5.2 Endangered Species

NASA contracted the Physical Science Laboratory (PSL) to perform a Threatened and Endangered Species Survey in 1996. This survey also included a follow-up survey which assisted in identifying species that were dormant or absent when the initial survey took place. This report is provided as Appendix A (Threatened and Endangered Species Survey of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's White Sands Test Facility, New Mexico).

Specimens of the Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) have been found in this area. This lizard is a Federal Candidate 2 species. Currently, this species has no State of New Mexico status. It is common in desert areas throughout southern and central New Mexico. These horned lizards live in shrubland, desert grassland, and associated juniper woodland.

The WSTF site survey included eight raptorial bird species which were observed during the PSL biologic field survey. Although several pairs of raptors were observed nesting in the area, there was no clearly defined raptor use area or ecological habitat associated with the proposed property. Golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are generally associated with lowland areas and are present in the proposed area. Canyons, drainages, and other upland areas in the nearby foothills of the San Andres Mountains likely provide nest sites that are suitable for use by golden eagles and other large raptors. Lowland desert grasslands and shrub vegetation provide important hunting areas for small to medium-sized mammalian prey items. Most observations of Swainson's (*Buteo swainsoni*) and red-

tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) are associated with power poles along the WSTF road system. These birds perch on electrical power poles while feeding on prey, searching the desert floor and scrub habitat below for insects or small vertebrates, or while sunning during the early morning hours.

During the biological survey, large stick nests were found in the proposed project area. All nests were in relatively good structural condition and were located in sandy/clay swales and playas within Chihuahuan Desert Shrub macro habitat. The primary nest-tree species were honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) and desert sumac (*Rhus microphyllum*).

Although testing and new construction activity at the project area would cause some degree of noise and run-off disturbance, these impacts would be minimal and temporary. Well placements would be chosen away from open grasslands or densely vegetated plots if practical. If anticipated noise levels associated with this project are maintained into the future, no adverse threat to populations of wildlife or their habitats are anticipated. Due to the findings of the threatened and endangered species survey, sensitive species would not be impacted by the proposed project.

3.6 Noise

The proposed project area is surrounded by a buffer zone that consists of State of New Mexico, BLM, and NASA land. This land provides an extensive buffer zone between the proposed MPCA construction area and the nearest private home. This buffer zone effectively eliminates any hazard or discomfort to off-site interests. The closest WSTF facility is the plume-front treatment building, located approximately 2,414 m (7,920 ft) from the proposed furthest MPCA extraction well site. An on-going hearing conservation program is in effect at WSTF which includes noise studies and subsequent reports, recommendations for engineering control, a provision for periodic audiometric testing, and the use of ear plugs and muffs. Noise generated by project operations can be attributed to three principle sources: vehicular traffic; project operations; and heavy equipment during construction.

There are expected to be minimal and temporary potential noise impacts during the construction phase. Construction activities needed to install the extraction wells and a pretreatment substation (if necessary) at the proposed site are expected to be done intermittently over a one-year period. These noises would have minimal impacts. Four wells would be drilled, each lasting approximately 10 days. In addition, minor noise increases are expected due to an increase in vehicular traffic and during system operation. These traffic and operational noise levels are expected to be negligible, but noise levels during construction may, at times, reach levels harmful to field personnel. For individual protection, all personnel are required to use appropriate protective hearing devices if 84 dB(A) are surpassed. The following table lists common noise sources and their decibel levels:

Common Noise Sources

<u>dB(A) Level</u>	<u>Source</u>
60	Speech at 0.9 m (3 ft)
70	Normal street traffic
90	Operating a lawn mower
100	Operating a chain saw
140	Jet airplane takeoff at 15 m (50 ft)

3.7 Land Use

The general pattern of WSTF land usage follows planning concepts and objectives that were established when the installation was initially conceived, designed, and constructed. The fundamental guideline for orderly growth and development at WSTF is to continually review, utilize, and extend these basic ideas with respect to frequently changing conditions. The current WSTF Master Plan (1994) satisfies all foreseeable major functional requirements and relationships. For example, it protects off-site adjacent land usage from objectionable or hazardous influence, and incorporates flexibility to accommodate current long-range planning goals and objectives.

NASA has utilized the proposed project area as a safety buffer zone. Agreements between NASA, BLM, and NMSLO have limited activity on this property. NASA has groundwater monitoring and drinking water wells, drinking water pipes, and utility lines located within the proposed sections. A chlorinating booster station for the WSTF drinking water is located in the southwestern corner of Section 32. Additionally, private individuals lease land within the proposed area for cattle grazing. Due to this proposed project, the number of vehicular trips would increase, but the WSTF access road and well road would be used to alleviate impacts. The new powerlines would be placed primarily along the existing main well road, and the plume-front connection piping for the extraction wells would be located 6 m (20 ft) south of the main well road. The piping would run parallel to the main well road along an existing bladed line used during a past geophysical study. Refer to Figures 7 and 8 for additional details concerning piping and powerline locations.

3.8 Energy

The MPCA extraction wells and pretreatment remediation system (if necessary) would not increase the energy requirements that were previously estimated for the operation of the plume-front remediation project. The previously published Plume-Front Remediation System EA included the future energy requirements of installing and connecting an MPCA remediation system to the plume-front system. The Plume-Front Remediation EA estimated a site-wide annual energy increase of approximately 8,900,000 kilowatt-hours at an estimated cost of \$500,000 for the operation of both the plume-front, and

MPCA, remediation systems. This equates to a site-wide increase of approximately 73% over the Fiscal Year (FY) 1998 energy usage of 12,134,800 kilowatt-hours costing \$854,200.

Roads, above ground and sub-grade piping, powerlines, and power poles would be branched off from the areas and systems previously presented on Figures 8 and 9. Using existing facilities in all applicable instances would minimize any environmental impacts from these actions. A pretreatment substation may be added at the MPCA to augment groundwater treatment. Additionally, the remediation system would operate 24 hours per day.

4.0 Environmental Consequences of Proposed Action and Alternatives

4.1 Proposed Action

4.1.1 Land Use

The BLM would need to concur with NASA pertaining to the MPCA activities occurring in this location. These agreements would include grazing rights. Additionally, wells, well pads, roads, above ground and sub-grade piping, and powerlines with power poles would be needed to support this proposal. These actions would be kept to a minimum by using existing facilities in all applicable instances. After construction, any disturbed land that would not be used on a regular basis will be reseeded according to suggestions from the BLM. The BLM reseeding plan includes using the seeds of native grass and shrub species, and planting in June if possible to yield the best results.

4.1.2 Energy

The plume-front EA energy estimate included the additional MPCA energy requirements. Additional site-wide electrical usage due to the implementation of a plume-front and MPCA remediation system would be approximately 8,900,000 kilowatt-hours and \$500,000.

4.1.3 Groundwater Quality

Groundwater quality at the proposed project area would be significantly enhanced. Groundwater pump and treat remediation would remove contaminant mass, prevent continued plume migration, contain the northwest trending contaminant lobe, and reduce ecological and human health risks to potential receptors.

4.1.4 Biological Resources

During the threatened and endangered species survey it was recognized that impacts to vegetation and wildlife species are considered adverse if: (1) pre-existing wildlife cannot be supported following removal or alteration of vegetation from the property; (2) project

associated disturbance such as habitat destruction, noise, human presence, project operation, pollution, etc., results in long-term wildlife population decreases that are greater than one breeding season; and, (3) severe erosion occurs from removal of vegetation or other disturbance resulting in irreversible effects to the surrounding habitat. Also, the loss of vegetation along arroyos can result in a loss of soil stability causing adverse erosion problems.

Direct impacts are those actions that have a direct and often immediate effect upon the resource. These conspicuous actions primarily include ground conversion activities during construction activities. The following minor impacts are expected to occur during the proposed project:

Surface Disturbances - Surface disturbances can include a wide range of activities such as road or site facility construction, installation of utilities, or any other action that removes the existing plant and animal communities. Effects of surface disturbance range from immediate and total removal of the organism, to temporary removal or disturbance.

Rural Fugitive Dust - Construction activities, dirt roads, or any other activity that results in dust generation can result in damage to the local flora. Rural fugitive dust is often deposited on the leaf surfaces of plants adjacent to the dust source. The resulting coating of dust can reduce the photosynthetic capacity of the plant and potentially leave it in a stressed condition.

Impacts from both surface disturbances and rural fugitive dust are expected to be minimal and would be abated by the utilization of existing roads where applicable. In addition, new roads would be constructed using construction techniques to assist in minimizing disturbances (such as wetting of dirt).

Regardless of the environmental setting, plant and wildlife species can be adversely affected by a potentially large number of extraneous factors associated with construction activity, including: (1) human disturbance (noise, human presence, power line, and fence entanglement); (2) pollution; (3) direct loss of habitat; and, (4) indirect loss of habitat associated with habitat fragmentation. Adverse impacts on species of raptors and songbirds in the local area surrounding the site could result from the effects of noise and other disruptive activity if elevated noise levels occur during the breeding or nesting periods. For example, project activities could cause raptors and other groups of birds to abandon their nests or young. In addition, these kinds of man-made disturbances may function as a deterrent to foraging activity during critical periods of the breeding and nesting cycles, as well as interfering with the raising of young to the fledgling stage.

Several species that are protected by the State of New Mexico (but not listed) or protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty were observed during the 1996 Threatened and Endangered Species Survey; most of these taxa included primarily small-to-large sized raptorial birds species: Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*); golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*); Swainson's hawk (*Buteo*

swainsoni); turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*); northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*); American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*); and western burrowing owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugea*).

NOTE: All wild birds in the United States, except resident game birds (i.e., pheasant, grouse, quail, etc., which are managed by the respective State, and the English sparrow, starling, and feral pigeon) are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 United States Code 703-711). Although Federal Category 2 Candidate species are not specifically protected under the Endangered Species Act, an increase in threats from habitat destruction could cause them to be proposed for listing.

The proposed project area is considered to be a low affectability area. This area receives little use by wildlife species because it has been physically altered by human disturbance or overgrazing, and provides reduced topographic relief and vegetation diversity associated with food and cover.

4.1.5 Cultural Resources

During the implementation phase, there is a possibility of unearthing undiscovered archeological resources. The project area has been previously surveyed for archeological resources by a qualified cultural resources subcontractor. There are no archeological sites, including BK 63, that would be endangered or disturbed by the proposed project. If any undocumented or previously undiscovered archeological site is uncovered during construction, site construction would cease at this specific location until historic preservation issues are resolved.

4.1.6 Noise

Construction activities at the proposed site would be completed intermittently over a one year period. Construction related noise from well drilling and remedial system installation is predicted to have minimal impacts. Four wells would be drilled, each lasting approximately 10 days. Noise levels from increased vehicular traffic and during system operation are expected to be negligible.

4.1.7 Geology and Soils

A minor issue exists with an increase of wind or water erosion of soils during the construction phase. This is unlikely to transform the topographic conditions within the proposed area. Engineering practices to control erosion would be initiated during construction when appropriate.

4.1.8 Air Quality

Environmental impacts to air quality will be minimal. The NMED Air Quality Bureau does not regulate emissions from remediation activities and the emission quantities from air stripping activities are well below RCRA-related permit thresholds (Subparts AA, BB, and CC).

4.2 Full-Scale Groundwater Remediation Alternative

Ecological consequences of full-scale remediation would be extensive, with the installation of an extensive network of groundwater monitoring, injection, and extraction wells, and the construction of several treatment facilities and extensive infrastructure. This infrastructure would include an extensive network of roads, pipeline locations, and new powerlines causing significant land disturbance.

4.3 No-Action Alternative

The primary ecological impact from this alternative would be that groundwater quality would not be enhanced in the project area. The plume-front remediation system would be implemented without the addition of the MPCA remediation system, upgradient source area contamination would not be isolated from the plume-front area, plume migration through the MPCA would continue, and the northwest trending contaminant lobe would not be abated. As a result, source area contamination would continue to migrate towards the plume-front, and ecological and human health risks to potential receptors would not be minimized.

5.0 Agencies and Individuals Consulted

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Sections: Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives, Affected Environment

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Appendix A

Threatened and Endangered Species Survey

**Threatened and Endangered Species Survey
Of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's
White Sands Test Facility (WSTF), New Mexico**

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REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides results of a detailed biological field survey of Threatened and Endangered species of plants and animals found on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) White Sands Test Facility (WSTF), Doña Ana County, New Mexico (Figure 1). The biological survey was conducted on more than 13 sections of land and along approximately 52 km (32 mi) of right-of-way and fire fighting dirt roadways. Field work was conducted from 12 June through 5 September 1995. A supplemental rare plant survey was conducted during the spring flowering season of 1996. Industrial areas surveyed were divided into eight land use areas generally according to function. Because geographic boundaries of these land use and test areas are loosely defined, each area was referenced in the biological survey in relation to the particular section of land surveyed. A 100 percent pedestrian survey was conducted of all Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species of plants and diurnal animals, which included all connecting roadways, powerlines, and arroyos within the affected area.

Five rare plant species were documented within the primary study area. These taxa included: Ball Cactus (*Coryphantha vivipara*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included", L4); Barrel Cactus (*Ferocactus wislizenii*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico, "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included", L4); Night-blooming Cereus (*Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii*—Federal status [C2]; State of New Mexico Endangered [Status L1C, R-E-D Code: 1-3-1]); White-flowered Visnagita (*Neolloydia intertexta* var. *dasyacantha*—no Federal status; delisted in 1995 from State of New Mexico Endangered to "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included" [Status L4-1, R-E-D Code: 1-1-1]); and the Zephyr Lily (*Zephyranthes longifolia*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included" [Status L4-1]). Thirteen animal species were documented within the primary study area; these taxa included primarily small- to large-sized raptorial birds species: Coopers Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Protected]); Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*—Federal Endangered Species; State of New Mexico [Protected]); Koch's Snail (*Ashmunella kochi*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Sensitive]); Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Protected]); Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico

[Protected]); Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Protected]); Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*—Federal status [none]; State of New Mexico [Protected]); Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*—Federal [Candidate]; State [none]); American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Protected]); Pale Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Plecotus townsendii pallescens*—Federal [Candidate]; State of New Mexico [Protected]); Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*—Federal [Candidate]; State of New Mexico [Protected]); Short-horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma douglassi*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Protected]); and Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugea*—Federal [Candidate]; State of New Mexico [Protected]).

Fragmentation of native habitat represents a direct and observable loss of wildlife resources and may increase the level of predation on native wildlife species. These resources may include watering areas, foraging areas, travel corridors, and cover, nesting, and bedding sites. Fragmentation of native habitat, therefore generally results in an overall decrease in species density and richness. Fragmentation and resulting loss of natural habitat associated with new testing and construction activities can cause adverse impacts to wildlife habitat in the local area. Although this loss may not be immediately apparent, overtime it will have an accumulative negative effect on local plant and animal species diversity and density—which will be difficult, as well as expensive, to reclaim once lost. These areas on the WSTF site include: (1) ecotones between arroyo and scrub vegetation associated with both minor and major drainages; (2) the ecotones between arroyo vegetation and woodland vegetation at the eastern boundary of the property at the base of the San Andres Mountains; and (3) areas of great natural topographic diversity. No habitat critical to the survival or reproduction of any listed species of plant or animal was observed on the WSTF property.

Regions of high sensitivity habitat included: (1) the upper reaches of the Bear Canyon drainage, which drains east to west; (2) mesic woodland and arroyo vegetation associated with the Love Ranch area; and (3) the mesic woodland habitat associated with the northeast foothills of Quartzite Mountain and the San Andres Mountain Range. These areas are rich in biodiversity of both plants and animals, topographic relief, and provides natural water catchments and cover for wildlife. Areas of moderate sensitivity include desert grassland and associated shrubby vegetation lying at the base of the foothills of Quartzite Mountain and the San Andres Mountain Range, including the primary WSTF testing areas and the western boundary of the property. Areas considered to be of low sensitivity encompassed the remaining habitat, including most of the roadways to the north that boarder or are contained within the Jornada Experimental Range.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
List of Figures	vii
List of Appendices	vii
Executive Summary	ES-i
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Purpose of Biological Assessment	1
1.2 Installation Description	2
1.2.1 Location	2
1.2.2 Geology	2
1.2.3 General Soil Conditions	2
1.2.4 Hydrology	3
1.2.5 Meteorology	3
1.3 Surveyed Land Use Areas	4
1.3.1 100 Area	4
1.3.2 200 Area	4
1.3.3 300 and 400 Areas	5
1.3.4 500 Area	5
1.3.5 600 Area	5
1.3.6 700 Area	5
1.3.7 800 Area	5
2.0 Methods	6
2.1 General Sampling Methods	6
2.2 Complete Survey Method (100 Percent)	6
2.3 Plant Transects	7
3.0 Results	9
3.1 Biological Resources	9
3.1.1 Vegetation Communities	9
3.2 Description of Specific Sites Surveyed	9
3.2.1 Sections 11 and 12	9
3.2.1.1 Section 11	9
3.2.1.2 Section 12	10
3.2.2 Sections 1 and 2	10
3.2.2.1 Section 1	11
3.2.2.2 Section 2	11
3.2.3 Sections 31w, 32w, 6, and 5	12
3.2.3.1 Section 31w	12

3.2.3.2	Section 32w	13
3.2.3.3	Section 5	13
3.2.3.4	Section 6	14
3.2.4	Sections 23 and 26	14
3.2.4.1	Section 23	14
3.2.4.2	Section 26	15
3.2.5	Section 25	16
3.2.6	Section 27	16
3.2.7	Section 30E	17
3.2.8	Section 31E	18
3.2.9	Section 25	19
3.2.10	Section 35	19
3.2.10.1	400 Area	20
3.2.11	Section 36	20
3.2.11.1	200 Area	21
3.2.11.2	300 Area	21
3.2.11.3	800 Area	22
4.0	Specific Surveys for Wildlife	23
4.1	Mammals	23
4.2	Birds	23
4.3	Reptiles	24
4.4	Amphibians	24
5.0	Listed Species of Plants and Animals	25
5.1	Listed Species—plants	25
5.1.1	Ball Cactus (<i>Coryphantha vivipara</i> var. <i>bisneeara</i>)	26
5.1.2	Barrel cactus (<i>Ferocactus wislizenii</i>)	26
5.1.3	Night-blooming Cereus (<i>Peniocereus gregii</i>)	27
5.1.4	White-flowered Visnagita (<i>Neolloydia intertexta</i> var. <i>dasyacantha</i>)	27
5.1.5	Zephyr Lily (<i>Zephyranthes longifolia</i>)	28
5.2	Listed—Animals	29
5.2.1	Cooper's Hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	30
5.2.2	Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	30
5.2.3	Koch's Land Snail (<i>Ashmunella kochi kochi</i>)	31
5.2.4	Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)	32
5.2.5	Swainson's Hawk (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>)	33
5.2.6	Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	33
5.2.7	Northern Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	34
5.2.8	American Kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>)	34
5.2.9	Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	35
5.2.10	Texas Horned Lizard (<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>)	36
5.2.11	Round-tailed Horned Lizard (<i>Phrynosoma modestum</i>)	37
5.2.12	Pale Townsend's (Western) Big-eared Bat (<i>Plecotus townsendii pallescens</i>)	38
5.2.13	Western Burrowing Owl (<i>Speotyto cunicularia</i>)	38

5.2.14 Northern Aplomado Falcon (<i>Falco femoralis septentrionalis</i>)	38
5.2.15 White Sands Woodrat (<i>Neotoma micropus leucophaea</i>)	41
6.0 Sensitive Habitat Areas	42
6.1 Raptor Use Areas	42
6.2 Foraging Areas	43
6.3 Ephemeral Water Sources	44
7.0 Projected Biological Impacts	46
7.1 Vegetation	46
7.2 Wildlife	46
7.3 Noise Effects	47
7.4 Pollution	48
7.5 Loss of Habitat and Habitat Fragmentation	48
8.0 General Areas of Sensitivity	49
8.1 Critical	49
8.2 High	50
8.3 Moderate	50
8.4 Low	51
9.0 Overall Impacts to Biologic Resources	52
9.1 Direct Impacts	52
9.1.1 Surface Disturbance Impacts	52
9.1.2 Fire	52
9.1.3 Deposition of Debris, Garbage, or Chemical Spills	53
9.1.4 Pesticide and Herbicide Spraying	53
9.1.5 Rural Fugitive Dust	53
9.1.6 Soil Deflation	53
9.2 Indirect Impacts	54
9.3 Cumulative Impacts	54
10.0 Mitigation of Biologic Consequences	56
10.1 Future Construction	56
10.2 Future Buildings and Facilities	57
10.3 Future Disturbance	57
10.4 Loss of Vegetation, Habitat Fragmentation, and Edge Effect	57
10.5 Topographic Relief	58
10.6 Natural Drainages	58
10.7 Construction Debris	58
10.8 Vehicular Traffic	58
10.9 Trenching	59
10.10 Hazardous and Toxic Materials	59
10.11 Recyclable Wastes	59
10.12 Fire Control	60

10.13 Water Sources	60
10.14 Noxious and Exotic Weeds	60
10.14.1 Background on African Rue	61
10.14.2 Trenching	62
10.14.3 Sandune Habitat	62
10.14.4 Wetland and Riparian Areas	63
10.14.4.1 Historical Perspective and Extent of Problem in New Mexico ..	63
10.14.4.2 Recommendations	64
10.14.4.2.1 Minimum Notice	64
10.14.4.2.2 Comprehensive On-Site Supervision	64
10.14.4.2.3 Minimum Impacts on Vegetation	64
10.14.4.2.4 Topsoil Removal	65
10.14.4.2.5 Tree Replacement	65
10.14.4.2.6 On-Site Revegetation	65
10.14.4.2.7 Erosion Control	65
10.14.4.2.8 Drainage Control	66
10.14.4.2.9 Net Loss of Wetland Habitat	66
10.14.4.2.10 Wetland Creation, Restoration, Enhancement	67
10.14.4.2.11 Boulders and Rootwads	68
10.14.4.2.12 In-stream Equipment	68
10.14.4.2.13 Disturbance to Stream Substrate	68
10.14.4.2.14 Cofferdams	69
10.14.4.2.15 Use of Gravel	69
10.14.4.2.16 Catchment Devices	69
10.14.4.2.16 Sand Blasting	69
10.15 Plants and Wildlife	69
10.15.1 Night-blooming Cercus	69
10.15.2 Koch's Land Snail	70
10.15.3 Texas Horned Lizard	70
10.15.4 Northern Aplomado Falcon	71
10.15.5 Loggerhead Shrike	71
10.16 Species/Biological Diversity	72
11.0 Recommendations for Environmental Restoration	73
12.0 Additional Recommendations for Resource Management	77
12.1 Nesting Raptor Survey	77
12.2 Neotropical and Migratory Bird Surveys	77
13.0 List of References	78

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
Figure 1. General Location of the White Sands Test Facility.	82
Figure 2. General locations of the White Sands Test Facility study area and associated roadways	83
Figure 3. Primary testing facilities at the White Sands Test Facility and distribution of listed species of plants	84
Figure 4. Major vegetation communities found within the boundaries and fire roadways of the White Sands test Facility	85

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix	Page
Appendix A. List of plant species of special concern potentially found in the vicinity of the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF)	87
Appendix B. List of animal species of special concern potentially found in the vicinity of the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF)	94
Appendix C. Federal and State of New Mexico criteria for Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive species of plants and animals	96
Appendix D.1. List of plant species observed on each section of land on the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF)	101
Appendix D.2. List of plant species observed at each of the test facilities on the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF)	113
Appendix D.3. List of plant species observed along roadways delineated in the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) survey plan	119
Appendix E.1. List of animal species observed and expected on each section of land and associated test areas on the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF)	126
Appendix E.2. List of the number of animal species observed on each section of land and associated test areas on the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF)	133

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides results of a detailed biological field survey of Threatened and Endangered species of plants and animals found on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) White Sands Test Facility (WSTF), Doña Ana County, New Mexico (Figure 1). The biological survey was conducted on more than 13 sections of land and along approximately 52 km (32 mi) of right-of-way and fire fighting dirt roadways. Field work was conducted from 12 June through 5 September 1995. A supplemental rare plant survey was conducted during the Spring flowering season of 1996. Industrial areas surveyed were divided into eight land use areas generally according to function. Area number designations are as follows: 100 Area, 200 Area, 300 Area, 400 Area, 500 Area, 600 Area, 700 Area, and the 800 Area. Because geographic boundaries of these land use and test areas are loosely defined, each area was referenced in the biological survey in relation to the particular section of land surveyed.

A 100 percent pedestrian survey was conducted of all Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species of plants and diurnal animals. In addition to the 100 percent surveys of each area for species of special concern, the line-intercept sampling technique also was employed. Objectives of the line-intercept sampling were to determine species composition of major plant taxa in a given habitat, and identify quantitatively any community transition or ecological gradient that might exist in the specific study area.

Major vegetation within the area included a combination of woody shrubs and grasses characteristic of the Chihuahuan Desertscrub Biotic Community (Brown and Lowe 1982). Vegetation communities found within the designated study area included: Chihuahuan Broadleaf Deciduous Desert Scrub; Chihuahuan Foothill-Piedmont Desert Grassland; Chihuahuan Broadleaf Evergreen Desert Scrub; Rocky Mountain Montane Scrub and Interior Chaparral; and Rocky Mountain-Great Basin Open Conifer Woodland.

Of 36 plant species of special concern potentially occurring throughout Doña Ana County, New Mexico, 5 taxa (7.2%) were documented within the primary study area. These taxa included: **Ball Cactus** (*Coryphantha vivipara*- no Federal status; State of New Mexico "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included", L4); **Barrel Cactus** (*Ferocactus wislizenii*-no Federal status; State of New

Mexico, "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included", L4); **Night-blooming Cereus** (*Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii*—Federal status [C]; State of New Mexico Endangered [Status L1C, R-E-D Code: 1-3-1]); **White-flowered Visnagita** (*Neolloydia intertexta* var. *dasyacantha*—no Federal status; delist in 1995 from State of New Mexico Endangered to "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included" [Status L4-1, R-E-D Code: 1-1-1]); and the **Zephyr Lily** (*Zephyranthes longifolia*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included" [Status L4-1]).

Of 39 animal species of special concern potentially occurring throughout Doña Ana County, New Mexico, 5 taxa (7.4%) were documented within the primary study area. In addition, several additional species that are protected by the State of New Mexico (but not listed) or protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty also were observed; most these taxa included various raptorial birds species: **Coopers Hawk** (*Accipiter cooperii*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Protected]); **Golden Eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*—Federal Endangered Species; State of New Mexico [Protected]); **Koch's Snail** (*Ashmunella kochi kochi*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Sensitive]); **Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Protected]); **Swainson's Hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Protected]); **Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Protected]); **Northern Harrier** (*Circus cyaneous*—Federal status [none]; State of New Mexico [Protected]); **Loggerhead Shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*—Federal [Candidate]; State [none]); **American Kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Protected]); **Pale Townsend's Big-eared Bat** (*Plecotus townsendii pallescens*—Federal [Candidate]; State of New Mexico [Protected]); **Texas Horned Lizard** (*Phrynosoma cornutum*—Federal [Candidate]; State of New Mexico [Protected]); **Short-horned Lizard** (*Phrynosoma douglassi*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico [Protected]); and **Western Burrowing Owl** (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugea*—Federal [Candidate]; State of New Mexico [Protected]).

Mammalian species richness was high throughout the study area, depending upon local topography and vegetation complexity. This pattern of species richness is the result of significant topographic relief and geologic structural complexity, vegetation and ecotonal diversity, and the abundance of large arroyos, which are often obscured in lowland flat areas. Out of 548 mammal observations, the most common species included the Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus*

auduboni, 34%), Blacktailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*, 20%), White-throated Woodrat (*Neotoma albigula*, 16%), Mule Deer (16%), and the Banner-tailed Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys spectabilis*, 7%). Mule deer were abundant on the WSTF site, as evidenced by frequent observation of individual deer and groups of as many as 12 individuals. Foraging and bedding areas, travel corridors, antler castings, tracks, and feces also were common in the study area. Areas of high concentrations of deer exist throughout much of the area associated with the foothills of the San Andres Mountains, along major west draining arroyos (Bear Canyon), artificial watering areas, and most well developed and densely vegetated bajadas. Drainages and adjacent low-land slopes associated with grassland-scrub habitat and arroyo vegetation function as important travel corridors, bedding sites, and foraging areas for deer and many other medium to small-sized mammals, particularly in areas that are not disturbed by human activity.

The most common bird species observed (n= 428) were the Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*, 21%), Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*, 13.5%), Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*, 7%), White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*, 6%), and the Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*, 5%). Eight species of raptorial bird species were observed, including the: Coopers Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneous*), American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), and the Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugae*). Although several pairs of raptors were observed nesting in the general area, there was no clearly defined raptor use area or ecological region associated with the property. However, all upland shrub habitat and the ecotone between shrub and desert grassland habitats associated with the foothills of Quartzite Mountain and the San Andres Mountains function as a primary nesting area for large populations of the Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*), White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), and Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*).

The largest densities of reptiles occurred in desert grassland and scrub habitat associated with Section 1 (19% of the total number of individuals observed, n=503), Section 36 (17%), Section 12 (9.3%), Section 11 (8%), and Section 32W (8%). The most common species of herptile was the Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*, n=133 individuals observed) followed

by the Grassland Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus uniparens*, n=94), Western Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*, n=89), and Checkered Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tesselatus*, n=43). Four specimens of the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) were found in Section 1 and Section 36. This taxon is a Federal Candidate species. In addition, 12 specimens of the Short-horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma douglassi*) also were found. This species appears abundant and widespread in desert grassland and shrubland habitat, particularly at low elevations. All species of horned lizards are protected in New Mexico.

Because of the lack of ponds, streams, and wetland habitat, the number of species of amphibians was low. Man-made watering areas associated with Section 25 and 26 (Water Tower and 200 Area), and Section 2 (Sewage Lagoons [Nos. 640 and 136]) provide extremely limited access to perennial free water for amphibians. A large earthen tank (Section 31W) used for watering cattle contain 1,000s of Western Spadefoot Toad (*Scaphiopus hammondi*) tadpoles.

The primary source of free water for wildlife derives from numerous arroyos and several larger drainages associated with the foothills of the San Andres Mountains, which receives runoff and has natural, but ephemeral, water catchments. There are no perennial stream flows in the area, and deeply incised arroyos typically contain debris-laden flow during and shortly following summer storms. Gardner Springs Arroyo trends west through the facility near the 500 Area and 200 Area. One of its branches is close to the expansive Bear Creek canyon area, which is the primary arroyo to the north. The Bear Creek canyon drainage receives the largest amount of runoff during the monsoon season and is an important ephemeral source of free water for wildlife during the summer months. Limestone and igneous bedrock collects and pools water in depressions that can be used by wildlife as a annual source of water, which lies adjacent to vegetative cover. This drainage probably receives the largest amounts of use by wildlife following periods of summer and early fall precipitation. In addition, shrubs provide cover and perching substrates for a variety of passerine birds. Water will remain for longer periods of time if shrubs and trees remain undisturbed, because they provide shading, thus increasing the quality of this arroyo as important wildlife habitat.

Fragmentation of native habitat represents a direct and observable loss of wildlife resources and may increase the level of predation on native wildlife species. These resources may include

watering areas, foraging areas, travel corridors, and cover, nesting, and bedding sites. Fragmentation of native habitat, therefore generally results in an overall decrease in species density and richness. Fragmentation and resulting loss of natural habitat associated with new testing and construction activities can cause adverse impacts to wildlife habitat in the local area. Although this loss may not be immediately apparent, overtime it will have an accumulative negative effect on local plant and animal species diversity and density—which will be difficult, as well as expensive, to reclaim once lost. These areas primarily include: (1) ecotones between arroyo and scrub vegetation associated with both minor and major drainages; (2) the ecotones between arroyo vegetation and woodland vegetation at the eastern boundary of the property at the base of the Quartzite Mountain and San Andres Mountains; and (3) areas of great natural topographic diversity.

No habitat critical to the survival or reproduction of any listed species of plant or animal was observed on or in the immediate vicinity of the WSTF property. Regions of high sensitivity habitat included: (1) the upper reaches of the Bear Creek Canyon drainage, which drains east to west; (2) mesic woodland and arroyo vegetation associated with the Love Ranch area; and (3) the mesic woodland habitat associated with the northeast foothills of Quartzite Mountain and the San Andres Mountain Range. These areas are rich in biodiversity of both plants and animals, topographic relief, and provides natural water catchments and cover for wildlife. Areas of moderate sensitivity were associated with desert grassland and associated shrubby vegetation lying at the base of the foothills of Quartzite Mountain and the San Andres Mountain Range, including the primary WSTF testing areas and the western boundary of the property. Areas considered to be of low sensitivity encompassed the remaining habitat, including most of the roadways to the north that boarder or are contained within the Jornada Experimental Range.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

This report provides results of a detailed biological field survey of Threatened and Endangered species of plants and animals found on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) White Sands Test Facility (WSTF), Doña Ana County, New Mexico (Figure 1). The biological survey was conducted on more than 13 sections of land and along approximately 52 km (32 mi) of right-of-way and fire fighting dirt roadways. Specific tasks completed included:

1. Survey and identify all Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species of plants and animals that occur or have the potential to occur within the boundaries of the specific study area.
2. Catalog all species identified during the biological survey and publish and submit to AlliedSignal Technical Services Corporation (ATSC) a detailed report concerning results of the survey, including:
 - a detailed description of the survey area and associated GIS products;
 - a detailed description of all biological survey methodologies used;
 - a list of all Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species identified;
 - a discussion of all critical habitats, topography, substrates, drainage patterns, unique biological communities, and other factors of significance to the biological regime;
 - discussions and recommendations concerning the findings of the biological survey;
 - discussions and recommendations of site activities potentially impacting sensitive species and their critical habitats.

1.2 INSTALLATION DESCRIPTION

1.2.1 Location

WSTF is located 32 km (20 mi) northeast of Las Cruces, New Mexico, and 105 km (65 mi) north of El Paso, Texas. Geographic coordinates of WSTF are 106°36'30" W longitude, 32°30'30" N latitude. The installation occupies approximately 245 km² (60,500 acres) along the western flank of the San Andres Mountains in southwestern New Mexico.

1.2.2 Geology

WSTF is in the Mexican Highland Section of the Basin and Range Province and within a major tectonic feature—the Rio Grande Rift. This rift, which extends from southern Colorado to northern Mexico, is characterized by north-trending mountain ranges and intermontane basins. WSTF is located along the western flank of the San Andres Mountains. This range extends from San Augustine Pass at the southern border (near the WSTF access road entrance from U.S. Highway 70) to Mockingbird Gap, White Sands Missile Range on the north, a distance of 120 km (75 mi). Elevation of the adjacent plains to the west is about 1,300 m (4,200 ft) above mean sea level. This area is part of the Jornada del Muerto, a broad, dry basin on the west side of the San Andres Mountains. Considered part of the Rio Grande Rift, along with the San Andres Mountains, the basin measures 191 km (120 mi) in length and 24 to 48 km (15-30 mi) wide with elevation ranging from 1,432 to 1,554 m (4,700 - 5,100 ft). Higher peaks of the mountains to the east of the WSTF site are from 2,100 to 2,700 m (7,000 - 9,000 ft) in elevation. Quartzite Mountain, just east of WSTF along Bear Creek canyon, reaches 2,100 m (6,800 ft), whereas elevations of most WSTF industrial sites range from 1,460 to 1,520 m (4,800 - 5,000 ft).

1.2.3 General Soil Conditions

Uppermost alluvial layers associated with the WSTF site consist of silt, sand, gravel, boulders, and locally cemented conglomerates. Alluvium ranges from 10 to 99 m (35 - 325 ft) thick, adjacent to the mountains, to greater than 610 m (2,000 ft) thick in the basin floor. The surface

of the uppermost alluvial layer is a sandy silt containing some gravel and occasional boulders, and the gravel and boulder content gradually increase with depth.

1.2.4 Hydrology

The primary water supply in the area is from underground water resources immediately adjacent to the Rio Grande. In the WSTF area, all water is from an underground source, a groundwater aquifer of the Jornada Del Muerto Basin. Recharge of the groundwater aquifer comes primarily from the adjacent San Andres Mountains. Because of the relatively impervious geological structure of these mountains and the drainage gradients, runoff is approximately 75 percent of the total rainfall. Runoff that does not evaporate or transpire after reaching the alluvial fans at the base of the mountains infiltrates the ground and constitutes groundwater recharge. Although sporadic and of a small volume, it is important as a continuing source of recharge.

1.2.5 Meteorology

The WSTF site is in a predominantly Chihuahuan Desert Grassland climate, which is characterized by abundant sunshine, low humidity, slight rainfall, and a large day-to-night temperature variance. Average annual temperature is 62°F (17 °C). The mountainous terrain influences the climate by blocking the incursion of moisture-laden maritime air masses, and cold air draining down slopes causes a wide variation in minimum temperatures. There is also more precipitation in the mountains than in the basin. Although nighttime temperatures usually fall below freezing, average highs near 60°F (16°C) prevail during the coldest months, December and January. Spring, March and April, is the driest time of year. Dust storms caused by long-sustained winds are common. Summer weather, with an average maximum temperature of 94°F (34°C), begins in May and lasts through September. The highest temperatures, near and occasionally over 100°F (40°C), usually occur in late June, but through out the summer the temperature may drop 30°F (17°C) or more after sundown because of the clear skies and elevation.

1.3 SURVEYED LAND USE AREAS

Industrial areas surveyed are divided into eight land use areas generally according to function. Area number designations are: 100 Area, 200 Area, 300 Area, 400 Area, 500 Area, 600 Area, 700 Area, and the 800 Area. Because geographic boundaries of these land use and test areas are loosely defined, each area was referenced in the biological survey in relation to the particular section of land surveyed. All section corners and test areas were verified and mapped by use of U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps and a Trimble Pathfinder Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

1.3.1 100 Area

The 100 Area contains office facilities for administrative, management, and engineering activities, food service facilities, vehicle and facility maintenance, trade shops, emergency medical, fire fighting, and warehousing functions. The propellant transport parking area, an isolated area off the main thoroughfare and north of the 100 Area perimeter, is a holding area for trucks loaded with hazardous materials awaiting inspection and proper escort to offloading destinations. Two in-ground and three above-ground magazines for explosives and detonators are located in an isolated area northwest of the 100 Area. The "borrow" area, a mile south of the 100 Area, is an archaeologically safe source of gravel.

1.3.2 200 Area

The 200 Area contains laboratories and support facilities for propulsion system testing and components testing. The 250 and 270 Area test facilities were constructed to perform hazardous testing of hardware safely but with access to needed utilities and control facilities. Natural earthen barricades, a concrete retaining wall, and manmade structures protect the immediate areas. The 200 Area also contains covered hazardous waste evaporation tanks that exclude wildlife. Also open sewage lagoons are present and serve as a source of free water to numerous species of birds and other local wildlife.

1.3.3 300 and 400 Areas

The 300 and 400 Areas contain facilities and systems necessary to perform cold flow and static hot fire testing of propulsion systems. Rocket fuels and oxidizers are stored, pressurized, and transferred here. Within each area are four test stands, a control blockhouse, equipment and support buildings, instrumentation bunkers, and small office buildings. The site water storage facility, consisting of two above-ground tanks, is adjacent to the 300 Area.

1.3.4 500 Area

The 500 Area contains three separate areas: the fuel treatment facility, the propellant storage area, and the cryogenic and inert gas storage area (cryo area). The propellant storage area is restricted to facilities for storing and transferring propellants (oxidizers and fuels). At the cryo area are storage and distribution systems for liquid oxygen (inactive) and liquid and gaseous nitrogen.

1.3.5 600 Area

The three water supply wells, the two water booster stations, and the water treatment facilities are located along the well road in the 600 Area. The remote Large-Scale Fuel Fire Test Area is located near the wells, 4 mi (6.4 km) from the 100 Area.

1.3.6 700 Area

The 700 Area contains the remote High-Energy Blast Facility, the Landfill, and the open detonation unit where waste explosives are detonated.

1.3.7 800 Area

The 800 Area, adjacent to the 200 Area, contains facilities for performing tests on a wide variety of materials for ignition and combustion characteristics in various liquid and gaseous atmospheres at a wide range of temperatures and pressures. Facilities include a control building and reinforced concrete test cells.

2 METHODS

2.1 GENERAL SAMPLING METHODS

The biological field survey was conducted from 12 June through 5 September 1995 and April through May 1996. Because field work was conducted at the end of the flowering and growing seasons (Summer), the survey period was not seasonally timed to allow observation of the presence of some potential species of special concern, or to ensure complete coverage of all species in the affected area. However, the survey was seasonally timely enough to allow observations of most species of special concern, and to determine general habitat characteristics of taxa associated with different plant communities, elevations, topography, and drainage basin conditions within the local area.

Lists of plant and animal taxa occurring and potentially occurring within the project area were compiled from direct observation during pedestrian surveys of the affected area, and from recent literature detailing the surrounding biotic communities. Lesser game and nongame species of wildlife were recorded by visual observation and by the presence of tracks, scat, burrow systems, and nests—bones in carnivore scat and those found associated with woodrat nests are particularly good indicators of species richness of the small vertebrate community in the local area.

2.2 COMPLETE SURVEY METHOD (100 PERCENT)

A 100 percent pedestrian survey was conducted of all Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species of plants and diurnal animals, and included all connecting roadways, powerlines, and arroyos within the affected area (Figure 2). Surveys were conducted in each of the 13.5 sections of land, including all designated fire fighting access roadways (40.2 km [25 mi]) and the first 10.5 km (6.5 mi) of the NASA Road from Highway 70 to the entrance of the main WSTF facility (100 Area). An area of 45.7 meters (m) (150 feet [ft]) on both sides of all fire fighting and access roadways (1.146 acres) also was sampled 100 percent by walking.

One-hundred percent surveys of all flowering plants were conducted using parallel transects walked back and forth across survey areas by four qualified biologists and botanists.

A 100 percent survey was necessary to determine the presence, distribution, and critical habitat¹ characteristics of all species of special concern listed by the Federal and State of New Mexico environmental resources agencies (i.e., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS], U.S. Forest Service [USFS], State of New Mexico Forestry Division [NMFD], New Mexico Department of Game and Fish [NMDGF]).

2.3 PLANT TRANSECTS

In accordance with recommendations of the NMDGF, all major wildlife communities within the proposed survey area were determined, including the presence and distribution of lesser faunal and floral species and their sensitive habitats, including travel corridors, foraging areas, nesting sites, etc. (NMDGF, 1991, 1992). In addition to the 100 percent surveys of each area for species of special concern, the line-intercept sampling technique also was employed. Objectives of the line-intercept sampling were two-fold: (1) determine species composition of major plant taxa in a given habitat, and (2) identify quantitatively any community transition or ecological gradient that might exist in the specific study area.

Data were tabulated on the basis of plants lying on a straight line cutting across different regions of the study area. Because a specific unit of area (i.e., square meter [m²]) was not being sampled, only species composition and relative estimates of density can be calculated from these data. Surveys were stratified by habitat type and eight transects, totaling 1,600 m (5,250 ft) in length, were walked within each section of land. Starting points and orientation of transect locations were randomly selected. Samples were taken at 5 m (16.4 ft) intervals (40 individual data points per 200 m [656 ft] transect). Plants were counted if they were physically touched by the line-intercept transect vector or if their aerial foliage overlay the line-intercept transect vector.

The line-intercept method has been used extensively in studies of woodland, desertscrub, and desert grassland biotic communities, because true estimates of absolute density either cannot be

¹ The Endangered Species Act (ESA) (1993 §§ 2-19, 16 U.S.C.A.) defines critical habitat as that geographic area within the area occupied by the species at the time of its listing that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determines to be essential to the conservation of the species and requiring special management consideration or protection.

made or are difficult to interpret due to the problem of distinguishing between individual grass plants. In situations where relative estimates are sufficient, line-intercept transects may efficiently obtain them. In addition, this survey technique gives rapid, accurate, and objective information on relative frequency, density, and cover (dominance) of wildlife species, and is recommended by the NMDGF (NMDGF, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

3.1.1 Vegetation Communities

Major vegetation within the area included a combination of woody shrubs and grasses characteristic of the Chihuahuan Desertscrub Biotic Community (Brown and Lowe 1982). Figure 4 shows the major vegetation communities found within the designated boundaries of the WSTF site and the associated fire roadways; these plant communities include Chihuahuan Broadleaf Deciduous Desert Scrub (4222); Chihuahuan Foothill-Piedmont Desert Grassland (5221); Chihuahuan Broadleaf Evergreen Desert Scrub (4221); Rocky Mountain Montane Scrub and Interior Chaparral (4110); and Rocky Mountain-Great Basin Open Conifer Woodland (3122). All vegetation designations follow data compiled by the New Mexico Gap Analysis Project (GAP), which currently resides in the PSL GIS Computer Database.

3.2 DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC SITES SURVEYED

Complete lists of all Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive species of plants and animals potentially occurring within the project area are provided in Appendices A and B. Criteria for listing these plants and animals are presented in Appendix C. Plant species not detected in the line-transects because they are relatively rare in the area surveyed are provided in Appendix D1, D2, and D3—these species were observed during the 100 percent pedestrian surveys. Animal species observed and expected during the biological survey of the each section are shown in Appendix E1, E2, and E3.

3.2.1 Sections 11 and 12

3.2.1.1 Section 11

Section 11 is located along the southwest border of the WSTF facility. The northern boarder of Section 11 lies adjacent to the 100 Area (Section 2), which includes the Goddard Space Flight

Center (GSFC), Tracking and Data Relay Satellite Station (TDRSS) facility, U.S. Air Force Communications Support Facility (ASCFs), and the main gate along NASA Road. Dominate soil types were sandy/loam (1.6%), sandy gravel (27.8%), and boulders (5.0%). Dominant shrub species included Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 6.9%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 3.8%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 15.6%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 3.8%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 10.6%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 10.0%), and Lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*, 1.3%). The most common species of grasses were Side-Oats Grama Grass (*Bouteloua curtipendula*, 2.5%), Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 6.9%), and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 4.4%). Alkali Sacaton is an indicator of saline soil.

No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species of plants were observed in the area surveyed.

3.2.1.2 Section 12

Section 12 is located along the southeast border of the WSTF facility and does not include any testing facilities. The newly constructed fire break corridor is along its western boundary. Elevation gradually increases moving east and upslope toward the northwest escarpment of Quartzite Mountain. Dominate soil types were sandy loam (1.6%), sandy gravel (27.8%), and boulders (5.0%). Dominant shrub species included Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 6.9%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 3.8%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 15.6%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 3.8%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 10.6%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 10.0%), and Lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*, 1.3%). The most common species of grasses were Side-Oats Grama Grass (*Bouteloua curtipendula*, 2.5%), Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 6.9%), and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 4.4%).

No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species of plants were observed in the area surveyed.

3.2.2 Sections 1 and 2

Sections 1 and 2 are located directly north of, and adjacent to, Sections 11 and 12, which lie at the southwest and southeast borders of the WSTF facility. NASA Road lies at the extreme

western boundary of Section 2; whereas the newly constructed fire break corridor lies along the western boundary of Section 1. Several testing areas are included within the boundaries of these two areas.

In both sections, Ball cacti (*Coryphantha vivipara*) were observed growing on slopes with limestone gravel. This cactus was not in bloom and the subspecies was not positively identified. However, two subspecies - *C.v. var. bisbeeana* and *C.v. var. radiosa* are on the State of New Mexico "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included", L4.

3.2.2.1 Section 1

Section 1 does not include any testing facility, only the newly constructed fire break corridor along its western boundary. Elevation gradually increases moving east and upslope toward the northwest escarpment of Quartzite Mountain. Dominate soil types in this area included sandy loam (1.6%), sandy gravel (27.8%), and boulders (5.0%). Dominant shrub species included Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 6.9%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 3.8%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 15.6%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 3.8%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 10.6%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 10.0%), and Lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*, 1.3%). The most common species of grasses were Side-Oats Grama Grass (*Bouteloua curtipendula*, 2.5%), Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 6.9%), and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 4.4%).

3.2.2.2 Section 2

Section 2 includes the 100 Area, three sewage treatment lagoons, the 600 Area, the 272 Area and part of the 200 Area. This section of land includes a high density of buildings and storage areas for surplus materials (pipes, vehicles, etc.). Disturbed areas are vegetated by common weedy plants, such as Russian Thistle (*Salsola australis*). The sewage treatment lagoons are denuded of vegetation and provide water and forage for a variety of bird species such as Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*), American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*),

Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), Curved-bill Thrasher (*Toxostoma curvirostre*), and Yellow-headed Blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*).

Topography in this section was mostly flat with a few rolling hills sloping up towards Quartzite Mountain. The lower end of Gardner Springs Arroyo flows south on the western side of the areas listed above. A series of small limestone outcrops separate the facilities from the fire brake at the base of Quartzite Mountain. These limestone hills have been coined "Ocotillo Ridge" by NASA employees. Dominant soil types were sandy loam (1.6%), sandy gravel (27.8%), and boulders (5.0%). Dominant shrub species included Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 6.9%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 3.8%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 15.6%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 3.8%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 10.6%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 10.0%), and Lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*, 1.3%). The most common species of grasses were Side-Oats Grama Grass (*Bouteloua curtipendula*, 2.5%), Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 6.9%), and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 4.4%). An existing burrow pit in section 2 was uncovered during excavation in 1993; and an archaeological survey was performed at this time by Batcho and Kauffman Associates (Stuart, 1994).

3.2.3 Sections 31W, 32W, 6, and 5

Sections 31W, 32W, 6, and 5 constitute four sections of lowland, which encompasses the most xeric, poorly drained, and vegetatively homogeneous area on the WSTF property. Numerous well developed arroyos were present but hidden from sight within the low profile topography and vegetation. Water flows in a westward direction towards the Jornada Basin. Plant species richness is low relative to better drained upland slopes. Vegetation is sparse between shrub species such as Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*), and Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*). Shrubs provide a microhabitat for warm season grasses and herptiles. Natural habitat of this area also has been adversely impacted by cattle grazing.

3.2.3.1 Section 31W

Dominant soil types associated with Section 31W were desert pavement (2.2%) and sandy loamy soil (36.3%). Dominant shrub species included Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 5.9%), Broom

Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 5.6%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 10.6%), and Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 3.1%); whereas the most abundant species of grasses were Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 8.4) and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 27.8%).

No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species of plants were observed in the area surveyed.

3.2.3.2 Section 32W

The dominate soil type associated with Section 32W was sandy/loamy soil (60.9%). Dominant shrub species were Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 10.0%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 6.3%), Russian Thistle (*Salsola kali*, 5.6%), Lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*, 1.9%); and the most abundant species of grasses were Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 10.6%) and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 4.7%).

Ball cacti (*Coryphantha vivipara*) were observed growing on slopes with limestone gravel. This cactus was not in bloom and the subspecies was not positively identified. However, two subspecies - *C.v. var. bisbeeana* and *C.v. var. radiosa* are on the State of New Mexico "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included," L4.

3.2.3.3 Section 5

The dominate soil type associated with Section 5 was sandy loam soil (41.3%). Dominant shrub species included Mormon-tea (*Ephedra trifurca*, 7.5%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 70.0%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 23.8%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 40.0%), Desert Christmas cactus (*Opuntia leptocaulis*, 5.0%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 8.8%), Soaptree Yucca (*Yucca elata*, 5.0%), and Lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*, 21.3%). The most common grasses were Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 10.0%) and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 43.8%).

No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species of plants were observed in the area surveyed.

3.2.3.4 Section 6

The dominate soil type associated with Section 6 was sandy loam (28.4%). Dominant shrub species included Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 5.0%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 11.9%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 12.5%), Littleleaf Sumac (*Rhus microphylla*, 2.5%), Night Shade (*Solanum eleagnifolium*, 3.1%), Narrow Leaf Globemallow (*Sphaeralcea angustifolia*, 3.8%), Western Pink Verbena (*Verbena ambrosifolia*, 2.2%), and Lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*, and 2.5%). The most common species of grasses were Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 12.5%), Tobosa Grass (*Hilaria mutica*, 1.6%), and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 14.1%).

No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species of plants were observed in the area surveyed.

3.2.4 Sections 23 and 26

Sections 23 and 26 encompass the 700 Area (High Energy Blast Facility, Landfill, Open Burn/Open Detonation Unit) and the 40 acre Second TDRSS Ground Terminal (STFT), located approximately 4.8 km (3 mi) north of the main WSTF gate-- TDRSS is the GSFC Tracking and Data Relay Satellite Station; whereas GSFC is the Goddard Space Flight Center. The northern one half of Section 23 boards the Jornada Experimental Range and associated access roads.

3.2.4.1 Section 23

The dominant soil type associated with Section 23 was sandy gravel (45.0%). Dominant shrub species included Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 2.5%), Four-wing Saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*, 1.3%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 2.5%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 8.8%), Curlycup Gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*, 1.3%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 13.1%), Purple Prickly Pear (*Opuntia violaceae*, 1.3%), Desert Holly (*Perezia nana*, 2.2%), Paperflower (*Psilostrophe tagetna*, 0.6%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 2.5%), and Banana Yucca (*Yucca baccata*, 1.6%). The most common species of grasses were Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 13.4%), Bush Muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri*, 1.9%), and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 2.2%).

No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species of plants were observed in the area surveyed.

3.2.4.2 Section 26

Section 26 is mostly flat to the west, but to the east there is a series of rolling hills near the 400 Area. Numerous arroyos are hidden from sight within the low profile of the topography. Bear Creek drains into this area providing enough flow during heavy floods to create deeply entrenched arroyos. Topography slopes gently upwards to the San Andres Mountains. A sewage treatment lagoon west of the STFT security gate provides water for wildlife. Banks of the lagoon lack vegetation, however a few plant species were starting to grow. Most sprouts were common roadside weeds such as Russian Thistle (*Salsola australis*) and one Rush-like sprout (*Juncus* sp.).

The dominate soil types associated with Section 26 were desert pavement/gravel (5.0%), limestone cobble (1.6%), and sand (1.9%). The more heterogeneous soils were a reflection of the proximity to better drained upland topography at the eastern boundary of Section 26 and the western boundary of Section 25. Increased topographic relief also affected greater plant species richness. Dominant species of shrubs were Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 2.8%), Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*, 2.2%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 1.9%), Turk's Cap (*Echinocactus horzonthalonius*, 0.6%), Mormon-tea (*Ephedra trifurca*, 0.9%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 2.5%), Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*, 0.6%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 2.5%), Curlycup Gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*, 6.3%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 8.1%), Purple Prickly Pear (*Opuntia violaceae*, 2.8%), Desert Holly (*Perezia nana*, 0.9%), Paperflower (*Psilostrophe tagetna*, 7.5%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 3.8%), Twist Flower (*Streptanthus arizonicus*, 0.3%), Banana Yucca (*Yucca baccata*, 0.9%), and Soap-tree Yucca (*Yucca elata*, 0.6%). The most abundant species of grasses were Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 9.4%), Bush Muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri*, 2.8%), Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 1.6%), and Purple Three Awn (*Aristida purpurea*, 0.6%).

Two specimens of the Night-blooming Cereus (*Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii*) were observed on the east side of the Landfill, approximately 1.3 km (2 mi) west of Bear Canyon (Figure 3) at an elevation of 1,600 m (5,250 ft). One specimen was located along a utility access road in the shade of a Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*), and within the alluvial fan of Bear Canyon. The

other specimen was located approximately 300 m (1,000 ft) north of the first specimen. This specimen was located during a spring 1996 rare plant survey. This second cactus was growing under the canopy of a Creosotebush, and smaller than the first cactus. *P. g. var. greggii* is a State Endangered and Federal Candidate species.

3.2.5 Section 25

The southern one-half of Section 25 was surveyed in conjunction with Sections 30E and 36. Section 25 encompasses the largest area of arroyo habitat associated with the mouth of the Bear Creek and its westward drainage. Virtually the entire topographic aspect of Section 25 has a southern exposure, which is vividly reflected in its plant species composition. Dominate soil types were desert pavement/gravel (5.0%), limestone cobble (1.6%), and sand (1.9%). Dominant species of shrubs were Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 2.8%), Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*, 2.2%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 1.9%), Turk's Cap (*Echinocactus horizonthalonius*, 0.6%), Mormon-tea (*Ephedra trifurca*, 0.9%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 2.5%), Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*, 0.6%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 2.5%), Curlycup Gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*, 6.3%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 8.1%), Purple Prickly Pear (*Opuntia violaceae*, 2.8%), Desert Holly (*Perezia nana*, 0.9%), Paperflower (*Psilostrophe tagetna*, 7.5%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 3.8%), Twist Flower (*Streptanthus arizonicus*, 0.3%), Banana Yucca (*Yucca baccata*, 0.9%), and Soaptree Yucca (*Yucca elata*, 0.6%). Common grasses were Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 9.4%), Bush Muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri*, 2.8%), Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 1.6%), and Purple Three Awn (*Aristida purpurea*, 0.6%).

In addition, several Zephyr Lilies (*Zephyranthus longifolia*) were observed scattered throughout the section, flowering in sandy arroyos. This species is a State List 4 plant and is not protected (Appendix C).

3.2.6 Section 27

Section 27 lies west and adjacent to Section 26. Topography is mostly flat with numerous arroyos hidden below the line of sight. Dominate soil types associated with Section 27 includes boulders

(1.3%), gravel (22.5%), desert pavement (1.3%), sandy loam (4.7%), sandy gravel (33.8%), and arroyo cobble (2.2%). Dominant shrub species included Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 2.5%), Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*, 2.5%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 1.3%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 1.9%), Curlycup Gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*, 1.3%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 12.8%), Desert Holly (*Perezia nana*, 1.3%), Paperflower (*Psilostrophe tagetna*, 1.3%), and Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 1.3%). The most common species of grass was Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 8.4%). An archeological survey of this area was conducted in Section 27 and adjacent Section 3 (Miller and Stuart, 1991).

No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species of plants were observed in the area surveyed.

3.2.7 Section 30E

Section 30E contains the Love Ranch site and lies along the northern fork of Bear Creek at the mouth of the Bear Creek canyon. Section 30E consists predominantly of topography associated with more xeric southern exposures. Dominate soil types were boulders (1.3%) and rocky habitat (31.9%). Dominant shrub species included White Thorn (*Acacia constricta*, 4.7%), Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 1.9%), Woolly Lipfern (*Cheilanthes tomentosa*, 0.6%), Sotol (*Dasyllirion wheeleri*, 2.5%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 8.8%), Mormon-tea (*Ephedra trifurca*, 2.2%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 5.0%), Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*, 3.4%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 5.0%), and Purple Prickly Pear (*Opuntia violaceae*, 2.5%). The most common species of grasses were Tobosa Grass (*Hilaria mutica*, 2.8%) and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 27.5%).

Numerous individuals of the White-flowering Visnagita (*Neolloydia intertexta* var. *dasyacantha*) cactus were observed scattered on limestone hillsides (Figure ³~~3~~). This species was listed as a State Endangered (L1C) plant, however, in 1995 it was delisted to "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included [Status L4-1]". These cacti were associated with dropseed grasses (*Sporobolus* spp.).

3.2.8 Section 31E

Section 31E represents the most highly diverse ecological zone, containing large segments of arroyo topography and vegetation, northern mesic and xeric southern uplands and associated plant communities. Section 31E lies directly south of Section 30E, and includes the west draining mouth of the Bear Creek canyon at the northern-most extension of Quartzite Mountain. Bear Creek is the largest canyon draining the WSTF site. Bear Creek cuts through the San Andres Mountains and is characterized by small limestone, siltstone, and sandstone hills. Smaller tributaries originate within these hills and flow into the valley bottom. Lower elevations, closer to the creek, contain both low and high west gravel ridges. Immediately adjacent to Bear Creek are broad, alluvial terraces or benches that widen near the mouth of the canyon. Slopes in this mountain zone range from 8 to 50 percent and elevation ranges from 1,640 to 1,797 m (5,000 - 5,480 ft) (Kauffman and Wright, 1987; Kauffman and Howell, 1987; and Stuart, 1988).

Dominant soil types consisted of a combination of limestone cobble (talus, 14.1%), rock (limestone bedrock, 20.9%), and sand (2.5%). The predominant species of shrubs were Agave (*Agave palmeri*, 2.5%), Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 2.5%), California Brickell Bush (*Brickellia californica*, 1.3%), Two-leaf Sena (*Cassia bauhinioides*, 4.7%), Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus*, 1.3%), Sotol (*Dasylirion wheeleri*, 2.5%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 7.2%), Turk's Cap (*Echinocactus horizonthalonius*, 1.3%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 3.4%), Ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*, 3.8%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 2.5%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 5.6%), Desert Four O'clock (*Mirabilis multiflora*, 1.3%), Beargrass (*Nolina microcarpa*, 2.5%), Pancake Prickly Pear (*Opuntia phaeacantha*, 1.3%), Purple Prickly Pear (*Opuntia violaceae*, 0.9%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 2.5%), Squaw Bush (*Rhus trilobata*, 1.3%), and Banana Yucca (*Yucca baccata*, 1.9%). The most common species of grasses were Six Weeks Grass (*Bouteloua barbata*, 1.9%) and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 10.6%).

In addition, White-flowering Visnagita (*Neolloydia intertexta* var. *dasyacantha*), State of New Mexico "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included" (L4-1) was observed in this section (Figure 3). Most individual plants were observed on the lower northeast facing slope of Quartzite Mountain in limestone soil, associated with Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*).

This area was surveyed again during the spring 1996 in attempts to identify threatened or endangered plant species that flower in the spring. No new taxa of were observed during this survey. Growth or flowering of annual plants was suppressed due to drought-like conditions.

No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species of plants were observed in the area surveyed.

3.2.9 Section 25

Section 25 is composed of several short hills that roll west out of the mouth of Bear Creek. These hills are oriented in a north-south pattern parallel to the San Andres Mountains. This area is a transition zone between the valley and Bear Canyon. Dominate soil type was sandy/gravel (21.9%) and rock (limestone bedrock, 8.8%). Dominant shrub species included Sotol (*Dasyilirion wheeleri*, 1.9%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 8.8%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 2.5%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 2.5%), Curlycup Gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*, 8.8%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 5.0%), and Night Shade (*Solanum eleagnifolium*, 2.5%). The most common species of grasses were Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 25.0%) and Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 12.5%).

No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species of plants were observed in the area surveyed.

3.2.10 Section 35

Section 35 includes part of the 200 Area, 272 Area, 800 Area, and all of the 400 Area. Facility structures for the 200 and 272 areas, and 800 Area on the east side of NASA road. The 200 and 800 areas are separated from the 272 Area by Gardner Springs Arroyo, which drains in a southern direction parallel with Quartzite Mountain. Along both sides of NASA Road are drainage ditches. These ditches harbor a dense and lush population of common roadside weeds, and plants that grow in disturbed areas.

3.2.10.1 400 Area

The 400 Area is the propulsion test area, which is directly across from 200 Area and west of NASA Road. This area is used for the performance of cold flow and hot firing static testing of propulsion system. Facility structures include two vertical down-firing altitude simulation and one vertical down-firing atmospheric static test stands; two test stand support buildings, a control building and miscellaneous support facilities (Condon et al., 1980).

The 400 area gently slopes towards the Second TDRSS access road. Other than a major arroyo draining in the northwest exposure, the topography of this region is generally flat. White Thorn Acacia (*Acacia constricta*) was the predominate shrub on west facing arroyos, whereas short, weather beaten Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*) was more common on the flats. Dominate soil types were boulders (0.6%), desert pavement/gravel (10.6%), sandy/loamy soil (7.5%), sandy/gravel (14.1%), and wood (0.3%). Dominant species of shrubs were White Thorn (*Acacia constricta*, 1.9%), Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 2.2%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 4.1%), dead forb (spp., 0.6%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 2.5%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 2.2%), Curlycup Gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*, 20.3%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 7.2%), Pancake Prickly Pear (*Opuntia phaeacantha*, 1.9%), Mariola (*Parthenium incanum*, 1.3%), Paperflower (*Psilostrophe tagetna*, 0.6%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 2.5%), and Lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*, 1.6%). Common grasses were Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 7.2%) and Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 10.9%).

A few scattered White-flowered Visnagita (*Neolloydia intertexta* var. *dasyacantha*) were observed on the northeastern side of the 400 Area along the facility fence line (Figure ³8).

3.2.11 Section 36

Section 36 includes part of the 200, 272, 300, 500, and 800 areas. Facility structures for the 200, 272, and 800 areas in Section 35. Facility structures for the 300 and 500 areas are in Section 36. This Section is located on the western side of Quartzite Mountain. Topography is mostly flat with a gradual slope upward toward the base of Quartzite Mountain. A small limestone ridge separates the firebreak from the facilities. The ridge top is dominated by a line of Ocotillo

(*Fouquieria splendens*), hence the local name of "Ocotillo Ridge." Gardner Springs Arroyo separates Ocotillo Ridge from facility structures. This arroyo begins shortly south of Bear Canyon and flows south in the direction of Highway 70. Southeast of the 800 Area is Gardner Spring, which is approximately 0.6 km northeast of Quartzite Mountain. In 1990 an archaeological survey in this area was conducted by Batcho and Kauffman Associates (Almarez, 1990).

A small population of Zephyr Lily (*Zephyranthes longifolia*) was observed on Ocotillo Ridge; and several individuals of the White-flowering Visnagita (*Neolloydia intertexta* var. *dasyacantha*) were observed in the 800 Area (Figure 5).

3.2.11.1 200 Area

The 200 Area contains a set a general laboratories, data reduction, analysis facilities and modification, checkout and preparation facilities for propulsion system testing. This area has a dominate soil type of sandy/gravel (21.9%) and rock (limestone bedrock, 8.8%). Dominant shrub species in this area included Sotol (*Dasyilirion wheeleri*, 1.9%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 8.8%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 2.5%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 2.5%), Curlycup Gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*, 8.8%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 5.0%), and Night Shade (*Solanum eleagnifolium*, 2.5%). The most common species of grasses were Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 25.0%) and Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 12.5%).

No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species of plants were observed in the area surveyed.

3.2.11.2 300 Area

The 300 Area is a propulsion test area. It accommodates cold flow and hot firing static testing of propulsion systems. Facilities in the area include: atmospheric, down-firing static test stand, an altitude simulation down-firing test stand, a below grade structure for instrumentation and control signal conditioning equipment, a test center, a remote command building and miscellaneous support facilities (Condon et al., 1980). Dominate soil type was sandy/loamy soil (15.9%), desert pavement/gravel (14.4%), and rock (limestone bedrock, 1.9%). Dominant shrub species included Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 2.2%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 1.9%), dead forb (spp., 0.6%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 2.8%), Broom Snakeweed

(*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 1.3%), Curlycup Gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*, 15.0%), All Thorn (*Koeberlinia spinosa*, 0.6%), Stickseed (*Lappula redowskii*, 0.6%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 10.6%), Purple Prickly Pear (*Opuntia violaceae*, 1.6%), Paperflower (*Psilostrophe tagetna*, 1.5%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 1.3%), Littleleaf Sumac (*Rhus microphylla*, 1.6%), Western Pink Verbena (*Verbena ambrosifolia*, 1.3%), Banana Yucca (*Yucca baccata*, 1.6%), Soaptree Yucca (*Yucca elata*, 1.6%), and Lotebush (*Ziziphus obtusifolia*, 1.3%). Common grasses included Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 5.6%), and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 14.1%), and Purple Three Awn (*Aristida purpurea*, 0.6%).

No Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species of plants were observed in the area surveyed.

3.2.11.3 800 Area

The 800 Area is a material test area. This facility is used to test a wide variety of materials for ignition and combustion under various temperatures and pressure, and in various liquids and gaseous atmosphere (Condon et al., 1980). The dominate substrates in the 800 Area were: boulders (8.8%), sandy/loamy soil (25.0%), sandy/gravel (52.5%), and Rock (limestone bedrock, 6.3%). Vegetation composition is Louisiana White Sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*, 12.5%), Four-wing Saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*, 6.3%), Sotol (*Dasylirion wheeleri*, 6.3%), Feather Plume (*Dalea formosa*, 18.8%), New Mexico Rainbow Cactus (*Echinocereus viridiflours*, 6.3%), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*, 31.3%), Broom Snakeweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*, 18.8%), Curlycup Gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*, 25.0%), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*, 43.8%), Bush Muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri*, 6.3%), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*, 12.5%), and Littleleaf Sumac (*Rhus microphylla*, 6.3%). The most common species of grasses were Side-Oats Grama Grass (*Bouteloua curtipendula*, 10.0%), Fluff Grass (*Erioneuron pulchellum*, 56.3%), and Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*, 56.3%).

One individual Zephyr Lily (*Zephyranthes longifolia*) was observed on top of Ocotillo Ridge (Figure ³8). Several White-flowered Visnagita (*Neolloydia intertexta* var. *dasyacantha*) were observed within a half mile radius from the 800 Area, on the up slope toward Quartzite Mountain. Individuals were sparse within the area; they were found in associated with Alkaline Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*), Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*), and limestone soil.

4 SPECIFIC SURVEYS FOR WILDLIFE

4.1 MAMMALS

Mammalian species richness was naturally high throughout the study area, depending upon local topography and vegetation complexity. This pattern of species richness was associated primarily with significant topographic relief (e.g., rock outcrops, cliffs, etc.), vegetation and ecotonal diversity, and the abundance of large arroyos, which are often obscured in lowland flat areas. North- and east-facing slopes of the San Andres Mountains in the vicinity of Bear Creek canyon and the Love Ranch provide abundant local mesic microclimates for numerous species of plants and invertebrate animals, including sensitive species of terrestrial snails. In contrast, well drained limestone soils and rock outcrops found on south- and west-facing slopes in the same general area harbor a distinctly arid Chihuahuan desertscrub plant community.

The most common species of mammals included the Desert Cottontail (*Sylvilagus auduboni*, 34%, of the total number of mammals observed [n = 548]), Blacktailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*, 20%), White-throated Woodrat (*Neotoma albigula*, 16%), Mule Deer (16%), and the Banner-tailed Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys spectabilis*, 7%) (Appendix E). Blacktailed Jackrabbits were especially abundant throughout Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*) scrub habitat, whereas cottontails were primarily restricted to brushy low lying areas along the roadways and sandy Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) thickets or hummocks. Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) were particularly abundant throughout the entire survey area, as evidenced by numerous sightings of live animals, bones, and antler castings in arroyos and near artificial watering areas. Numerous individual Coyotes (*Canis latrans*) were observed throughout the entire survey area, along with tracks and scat. Several individual Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) were observed, along with abundant scat and tracks, primarily at low elevations (Appendix E).

4.2 BIRDS

The most common species of birds observed in the WSTF site were the Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*, 21%, n= 428 total birds observed), Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*,

13.5, Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*, 7%), White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*, 6%), and the Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*, 5%) (Appendix E).

4.3 REPTILES

The largest densities of reptiles occurred in desert grassland and scrub habitat associated with Section 1 (19% of the total number of individuals observed, n=503), Section 36 (17%), Section 12 (9.3%), Section 11 (8%), and Section 32W (8%) (Appendix E). The most common species of herptiles was the Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*, n=133 individuals observed) followed by the Grassland Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus uniparens*, n=94), Western Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*, n=89), and Checkered Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tesselatus*, n=43) (Appendix E).

Four specimens of the Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*) were found in Section 1 (n=2) and Section 36 (n=2). This species is a Federal Candidate species. Currently, this species has no State of New Mexico status; however, all species of horned lizards are protected. In New Mexico specific permits are required to collect these animals. The Texas Horned Lizard is common in desert areas throughout southern and central New Mexico. These horned lizards live in shrubland, desert grassland, and associated juniper woodland. They feed mostly on ants, and occur in areas where ants, particularly seed harvester ants belonging to the genus *Pogonomyrmex*, are abundant.

Twelve specimens of the Short-horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma douglassi*) also were found. This species appears abundant and widespread in desert grassland and shrubland habitat (Appendix E), particularly at low elevations. Currently this species has no Federal or State of New Mexico status.

4.4 AMPHIBIANS

Because of the lack of ponds, streams, and wetland habitat, the number of species of amphibians was low. Man-made watering areas associated with Section 25 and 26 (Water Tower and the 200 Area), and Section 2 (Sewage Lagoons [Nos. 640 and 136; Figure 3]) provide extremely

limited access to perennial free water for amphibians. A large earthen tank (Section 31W) used for watering cattle contain 1000's of western spadefoot tadpoles. Several species of amphibians that potentially may occur in temporary rain pools in the project area include the Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma tigrinum*), Woodhouse Toad (*Bufo woodhousei*), Great Plains Toad (*Bufo cognatus*), and Red-spotted Toad (*Bufo punctatus*).

5 LISTED SPECIES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

From information collected by the PSL biologic team, NASA's White Sands Test Facility has the potential to support 36 species of plants and 39 species of animals, which are listed as Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive by various Federal or State of New Mexico resource agencies (Appendix A and B). These lists were compiled after extensive biologic field surveys of the nearby Southwest Regional Spaceport site by PSL staff biologists/botanists (Sullivan and Nethers, 1995), and after consultation with appropriate resource agencies (e.g., New Mexico State University Agricultural Experimental Station [Jornada Range], U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), White Sands Missile Range (WSMR), and the New Mexico Division of Forestry (NMDF). Appendix C provides criteria for listing plant and animal species of special concern by the State of New Mexico and Federal resource agencies.

Note: Our definition of the term "sensitivity" is not intended as a NEPA term or as having a NEPA equivalent term "sensitive resources" (see §§10 CFR 1021.410(b)(1)(iii) and (b)(2) of the proposed bill as condition b.(4) in the final rule--pg. 15133, Part II Department of Energy). Instead and herein, sensitivity refers to a term developed specifically by us to indicate the susceptibility of a species or area to future human-induced degradation. Future actions within a sensitive area, as defined above, may or may not affect sensitive resources (i.e. NEPA term) found within or outside the designated study area.

5.1 LISTED SPECIES—PLANTS

The WSTF property provides habitat for a variety of native species of plants. Appendix D.1-D.3 provides a list of plant species observed during the biological survey. Of 36 plant species of special concern potentially occurring throughout Doña Ana County, New Mexico, 5 taxa (7.2%)

were documented within the primary study area. These taxa included: Ball Cactus (*Coryphantha vivipara*- no Federal status; State of New Mexico "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included", L4); Barrel Cactus (*Ferocactus wislizenii*-no Federal status; State of New Mexico, "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included," L4); Night-blooming Cereus (*Peniocereus greggii* var. *greggii*—Federal status [C]; State of New Mexico Endangered [Status L1C, R-E-D Code: 1-3-1]); White-flowered Visnagita (*Neolloydia intertexta* var. *dasyacantha*—no Federal status; delisted in 1995 from State of New Mexico Endangered to "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included" [Status L4-1, R-E-D Code: 1-1-1]); and the Zephyr Lily (*Zephyranthes longifolia*—no Federal status; State of New Mexico "Plant Taxa Considered, But Not Included" [Status L4-1).

5.1.1 Ball Cactus [*Coryphantha vivipara* var. *bisneana* (Orcutt) Benson and *Coryphantha vivipara* var. *radiosa* (Engelm.) Backeb.]

Status: Federal (None); State of New Mexico "Considered but not included" (Status L4).

Habitat: Chihuahuan Desert Scrub: Hot, dry plains with widely scattered shrubs typically of Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), and various species of yucca (*Yucca* spp.) with warm season grasses, forbs and cacti in shrub interspaces. Range extends from Arizona east through New Mexico.

Sensitivity: Low (relatively common; three sections, 1, 2, and 32W were documented harboring individuals)

Additional Information: Several varieties occur through out the southwestern United States. Flowers of these varieties are the distinguishing characteristics.

5.1.2 Barrel Cactus [*Ferocactus wislizenii* (Engelm) Britt. & Rose]

Status: Federal (None); State of New Mexico "Considered but not included" (Status L4).

Habitat: Chihuahuan Desert Scrub: Hot, dry plains with widely scattered shrubs typically of Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), and various species of yucca (*Yucca* spp.) with warm season grasses, forbs and cacti in shrub interspaces. Range extends from Arizona east through southern New Mexico into El Paso County, Texas.

Sensitivity: Low (relatively common; eight individual were documented in Section 1, 2, 12, 23, 25, 27, 30E, and 36.)

Additional Information: Commonly occurs on slight slopes with rocky soil providing good drainage. Largest cactus in our area, truly resembling a barrel. Once used for food and making candy. Now becoming rare due to over collection and slow regeneration.

5.1.3 Night-blooming Cereus (*Peniocereus greggii* (Engelm) Britt & Rose var. *greggii*)

Status: Federal (C); State of New Mexico Endangered (Status L1C, R-E-D Code: 1-3-1).

Habitat: Chihuahuan Desert Scrub: Hot, dry plains with widely scattered shrubs typically of Cresote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), and various species of yucca (*Yucca* spp.) with warm season grasses, forbs and cacti in shrub interspaces. Widespread throughout southern New Mexico, usually at elevations below 1,524 m (5,000 ft).

Sensitivity: High (rare; two individual were discovered in Section 26 adjacent [15 m] to the eastern boundary of the Landfill. One was within about 0.3 m [1ft] of an existing dirt road and the other was about 300 m [1,000 ft] to the north; many historical populations of this cactus have already been extirpated by collection [Sivinski and Lightfoot 1994]).

Additional Information: Night-blooming Cereus is a species that inhabits slopes and alluvial fans ranging from 1,200 to 1,600 m (3,937-5,240 ft). Typically it is associated with a nursery plant such as Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*). Many historical populations of this unique cactus have been extirpated by collection. Populations vary from a solitary individual to several specimens. This cactus has slender erect stems that are usually dark in color with 3 to 6 vary string ribs. Along the edge of each rib is a short (1/8-1/4 inch) spine. The fruit is a bright red, ovoid in shape with a beaked tip. The root is a potato like tuber that can weigh 5-15 lbs. The flower is typically pink to white, short-lived, and blooms only at night.

5.1.4 White-flowered Visnagita (*Neolloydia intertexta* var. *dasyacantha* (Engelm.) L. Benson)

Status: Federal (None); delisted in 1995 from State of New Mexico Endangered (Status L1C, R-E-D Code: 1-1-1) to State of New Mexico "Plant Of Considered, But Not Included" (Status L4-1, R-E-D Code: 1-1-1).

Habitat: Chihuahuan Desert Scrub: Hot, dry plains with widely scattered shrubs typically of Creosotebush (*Larria tridentata*), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis*

glandulosa), acacia (*Acacia* spp.), various species of yucca, warm season grasses, forbs, and cacti in shrub interspaces. Widespread throughout southern New Mexico, usually at elevations below 1,524 m (5,000 ft). Semidesert Grasslands: Hot, dry plains of warm season grasses such as grama (*Bouteloua* spp.), dropseed (*Sporobolus* spp.), Tobosa Grass (*Hilaria mutica*), and Burro Grass (*Scleropogon brevifolius*). Mesquite and Soap-tree Yucca (*Yucca elata*) also occur and may become dominant when continuously grazed by livestock.

Sensitivity: Moderate (locally abundant; scattered on limestone slopes throughout the WSTF area [Sections 30E and 31E]; however the majority of individuals observed were in areas that would not be affected by normal activities).

Additional: This cactus is much more abundant and less threatened than suspected when listed.

It has been delisted from the state endangered species list (Sivinski and Lightfoot, 1995). Now this cactus is a List 4 species. This species is not protected by the New Mexico Endangered Plant Species Act (9-10-10 NMSA). White-flowered *Visnagita* inhabits grassy limestone slopes at elevations from about 1200 to 1600 m (3937-5240 ft), and within juniper and piñon-juniper woodland. It is a rounded columnar medium sized cactus that normally has a solitary stem densely covered with interwoven spines. It usually ranges from 2.5 to 18 cm (1-7 inches) tall, but specimens > 0.4 m (1 ft) in height have been recorded (Sullivan and Smartt, 1994). It normally has 3 or 4 pinkish central spines and from about 16 to 25 radial spines per areole. Each of these spines can range from 1 to 1.5 cm (0.4-0.6 inches) long. Its white to pale pink flowers open in April with a small greenish-tan fruit appearing in late spring and often persisting into early summer. The *N. intertexta* normally occurs on coarse soils or rocky slopes, often on soils derived from rhyolite or volcanic materials.

5.1.5 Zephyr Lily (*Zephyranthes longifolia* Hemsl)

Status: Federal (None); State of New Mexico (L4-1).

Habitat: Chihuahuan Desert Scrub: Hot, dry plains with widely scattered shrubs typically of Creosotebush (*Larria tridentata*), Tarbush (*Flourensia cernua*), Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), acacia (*Acacia* spp.), various species of yucca, warm season grasses, forbs, and cacti in shrub interspaces. Widespread throughout southern New Mexico, usually at elevations below 1,524 m (5,000 ft). Semidesert Grasslands: Hot, dry plains of warm season grasses such as grama (*Bouteloua* spp.), dropseed (*Sporobolus* spp.), Tobosa Grass (*Hilaria mutica*),

and Burro Grass (*Scleropogon brevifolius*). Mesquite and Soaptree Yucca (*Yucca elata*) also occur and may become dominant when continuously grazed by livestock.

Sensitivity: Low (locally abundant in gravelly arroyos, and on limestone soils with good drainage such as Bear Canyon [sections 25 and 35]).

Additional: List 4 species are those species that were considered for listing but because of one reason or other they were not listed. This species is not protected by the New Mexico Endangered Plant Species Act (9-10-10 NMSA). The Zephyr Lily is a small (6 inch) herbaceous plant that has a large solitary flower. The flower is usually white or tinged with pink. It occurs in gravelly arroyos, and on limestone soils with good drainage. Typically it occurs between 1219 to 1829 m (4000 - 6000 ft). Flowering occurs during the summer monsoon rains.

5.2 LISTED—ANIMALS

The WSTF property provides habitat for a variety of small vertebrates. Appendix E provides a list of animal species observed during the biological survey, as well as those taxa expected to occur at the site, but which were not observed during the 100 percent pedestrian survey. Of 39 animal species of special concern potentially occurring throughout Doña Ana County, New Mexico, 4 taxa (9.7%) were documented within the primary study area. In addition, several additional species that are protected by the State of New Mexico (but not listed) or protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty also were observed; most of these taxa include primarily small- to large-sized raptorial birds species: Coopers Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*); Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); Koch's Snail (*Ashmunella kochi kochi*); Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*); Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*); Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*); Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneous*); Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*); American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*); Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*); Short-horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma douglassi*); and Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugea*).²

² In addition, all wild birds in the United States, except resident game birds (i.e., pheasant, grouse, quail, etc., which are managed by the respective States, and the English sparrow, starling, and feral pigeon) are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-711). Although Federal Category 2 Candidate species are not specifically protected under the Endangered Species Act, an increase in threats from habitat destruction could cause them to be proposed for listing before or during construction of future facilities.

5.2.1 Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

Status: No Federal status; State of New Mexico (Protected)³.

Habitat: Wide-ranging and breeds in riparian areas, montane forests, woodland habitat at mid-elevations.

Sensitivity: Low (2 individual birds observed in piñon-juniper habitat associated with the Love Ranch and Bear Canyon areas [sections 30E and 31E; Appendix E]). Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because: (1) of the small number of birds observed on the property; (2) the general lack of diagnostic habitat for the species except where habitat merges with the mesic upland and canyon habitat of the San Andres Mountains; and (3) low probability of disturbance to the ecology in these areas from ongoing and future testing activity; and (4) the fact that similar test and construction activities in north and south-central New Mexico historically have not resulted in documented adverse affects on the biology, reproduction, or ecology of this species or similar species (Sullivan and Knight, 1994; Sullivan and Smartt, 1991a, 1991b, 1991c, 1994)⁴.

5.2.2 Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Status: Federal Protected Species; State of New Mexico (Protected).

Habitat: Open and tilted landscapes, Chihuahuan Desert scrub (Creosotebush [*Larrea tridentata*], Tarbush [*Flourensia cernua*], Honey Mesquite [*Prosopis glandulosa*]), desert-grassland-juniper habitat, montane woodland and forests, deeply cut by streams and canyons, and rising to open or sparsely treed mountain slopes and rock crags—all elevations; hunts small

Further, because the cumulative impacts associated with the proposed construction could include future major development in the area surrounding the proposed corridor, we recommend that all candidate species be included in surveys and project evaluations once full disclosure of land conversion is made public (pers. comm. USFWS, 1995).

³ All raptors are protected by the State of New Mexico. In addition, the Golden Eagle is a fully Federally protected species under Public Law 93-205 and Title 16 USC, Subchapter II-Protection Of Bald and Golden Eagles Part 668a (16 USC §668a), which designated the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle as Threatened or Endangered species.

⁴ Also see "Department of the Army White Sands Missile Range Aerial Cable Capability final environmental impact statement. 10 October 1991. 292 pp.

mammals (ground squirrels, prairie dogs, rabbits, hares); high cliff ledges or faces are favored substrates for nest construction, also nests in trees associated with precipitous, rock cliff terrain.

Sensitivity: Low (8 individual birds observed in the primary study area associated with sections 5, 6, 11, 27, and 30E, 31E; [Appendix E]). Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because: (1) of the relatively small number of birds observed in the project area; (2) the larger area surrounding WSTF also is abundant with the Blacktailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) and other small to medium-sized mammalian prey species; (3) low probability of disturbance to existing preferred nesting and roosting habitat (upper elevations of San Andres Mountains) from ongoing and future testing activity; and (4) the observation that similar test and construction activities in north and south-central New Mexico historically have not resulted in documented adverse affects on the biology, reproduction, or ecology of this species or similar species (Sullivan and Knight, 1994; Sullivan and Smartt, 1991a, 1991b, 1991c, 1994).

Additional Information: The Golden Eagle inhabits open tilted landscapes, desert-grassland-juniper habitat, montane woodland and forests, and deeply cut streams and canyons that rise to open or sparsely treed mountain slopes and rock crags. Range of this species covers all elevations in North America. High cliff ledges or faces are favored substrates for nest construction, but in areas where this type of habitat is unavailable they will also construct nests in trees associated with precipitous, rock cliff terrain. This species is commonly observed in the nearby San Andres Mountains.

5.2.3 Koch's Land Snail (*Ashmunella kochi kochi*)

Status: Federal (none); State of New Mexico (Sensitive).

Habitat: Talus slopes at higher, more mesic, elevations within the piñon-juniper woodland macrohabitat; dominant topography consists of rock seams in steep canyons and cliffs; in order of occurrence, dominant plant species were silk-tassel, Gamble's oak, mountain mahogany, one-seed juniper, tree cholla, purple prickly pear, banana yucca, ephedra, beargrass, soto, and cliff rose; 40 percent overstory cover; dominant substrate consisted of igneous and rock; this species of snail is an excellent indicator of natural biodiversity and quality of natural habitat; these populations should be monitored by a qualified biologists.

Sensitivity: Low (numerous individuals observed in talus habitat associated with the northeast exposure of Quartzite Mountain--Section 31E, 6,600 ft; [Appendix E]). Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because of: (1) the relatively large number of individuals observed in the area; (2) the fossorial nature of the species; and (3) because of the remote location of populations on the WSTF site, which are well away from and potential testing and construction activities.

5.2.4 Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Status: Federal (none); State of New Mexico (Protected).

Habitat: Plains, open spaces, deserts, woodlands, riparian areas, sagebrush, forests.

Sensitivity: Low (18 individuals observed soaring above or feeding in the primary project area [sections 2, 5, 6, 27, 30, 31E, 31W] or perched on one of several power-poles along NASA Road [Appendix E]). Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because of: (1) the relatively large number of birds observed on of the property; (2) the larger area surrounding WSTF also is abundant with the Blacktailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) and other small to medium-sized mammalian prey species; (3) low probability of disturbance to individual birds or their preferred habitat from ongoing and future testing activity, and (4) similar test and construction activities in north and south-central New Mexico historically have not resulted in documented adverse affects on the biology, reproduction, or ecology of this species or similar species of raptors (Sullivan and Knight, 1994; Sullivan and Smartt, 1991a, 1991b, 1991c, 1994).

Additional Information: Although *B. jamaicensis* is neither a Federal nor State of New Mexico endangered, or sensitive species, all raptors are fully protected by the State of New Mexico. This species is the most common and wide spread buteo in North America. The Red-tailed Hawk is a bird of both open and wooded areas, particularly wooded edges, and often perch conspicuously on a treetops, a telephone poles, or other lookouts while hunting. Prey species includes mainly rodents but also insects and their larvae, fish, and larger mammals, such as rabbits and squirrels. They often pursue prey into dense brush, pirate prey from other raptors, and eat carrion. At WSTF, this species frequents power poles adjacent to NASA Road, where mortality to hares and rabbits from automobiles is quite high. Presumably this species, along with eagles, benefit from this fresh source of food.

5.2.5 Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

Status: Federal (none); State of New Mexico (Protected).

Habitat: Plains, open spaces, deserts, woodlands, riparian areas.

Sensitivity: Low (9 individual birds observed soaring overhead or perched along access roads associated with sections 2, 5, 6, 11, 31W, and 32 [Appendix E]). Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because of: (1) the relatively large number of birds observed on or in the vicinity of the property; (2) the larger area surrounding WSTF is abundant with the Blacktailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) and other small to medium-sized mammalian prey species; (3) low probability of disturbance to individual birds or their preferred habitat from ongoing and future testing activity, and (4) similar test and construction activities in north and south-central New Mexico historically have not resulted in documented adverse affects on the biology, reproduction, or ecology of this species or similar species of raptors (Sullivan and Knight, 1994; Sullivan and Smartt, 1991a, 1991b, 1991c, 1994).

Additional Information: The Swainson's Hawk is neither a Federal nor State of New Mexico endangered, or sensitive species; however, all raptors are fully protected by the State of New Mexico. This species is a common inhabitant of the Great Plains and relatively arid areas of grassland in the West, including plains, open spaces, deserts, woodlands, and riparian areas. It builds flimsy nests in shrubs and trees along wetlands and drainages, and in windbreaks in fields around farmsteads. Prey consists of small mammals, birds, large insects, and reptiles that it hunts primarily from perches such as fence posts, low trees, or from elevated vantage points on the ground. This species moves in response to locally high concentrations of prey more than most other species of raptors.

5.2.6 Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Status: No Federal status; State of New Mexico (Protected).

Habitat: Widely distributed in western North America; inhabits a wide variety of habitats in Southwest.

Sensitivity: Low (35 individual birds observed feeding or soaring overhead in most of the primary study area [Appendix E]). Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because of: (1) the relatively large number of birds observed in the project area and the ubiquitous

nature of the species throughout the Southwest—this species primarily is tied to the area because of the abundance of carrion associated with the cattle grazing industry; and (2) similar construction activities in north and south-central New Mexico historically have not resulted in documented adverse affects on the biology, reproduction, or ecology of this species or similar species (Sullivan and Knight, 1994; Sullivan and Smartt, 1991a, 1991b, 1991c, 1994).

5.2.7 Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

Status: Federal (none); State of New Mexico (Protected).

Habitat: Plains, open spaces, grasslands, woodlands, riparian areas, sagebrush.

Sensitivity: Low (4 individuals observed soaring low over desert grassland and scrub habitat of sections 2, 5, 27, 31W, and 32W [Appendix E]). This species may move into the area from more riparian habitat as far away as the Rio Grande. Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because of: (1) the relatively small number of birds observed in the project area; (2) the species is relatively wide ranging throughout the area; and (3) similar testing and construction activities in north and south-central New Mexico historically have not resulted in documented adverse affects on the biology, reproduction, or ecology of this species or similar species (Sullivan and Knight, 1994; Sullivan and Smartt, 1991a, 1991b, 1991c, 1994).

Additional Information: The Northern Harrier has no Federal status, but is a State of New Mexico protected raptor. It inhabits plains, fields, open spaces, grasslands, woodlands, and riparian areas. This species nests on the ground in dense cover, however, it may occasionally construct nests in association with deep or shallow marsh habitat. The northern harrier preys on a variety of animals and regularly detects prey solely by means of its keen hearing. This species was most commonly observed during the quiet early morning hours gliding or hovering at low altitude over desert grassland and scrub habitat and associated dirt roads.

5.2.8 American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

Status: Federal (none); State of New Mexico (Protected).

Habitat: Power lines, fence lines/posts, sagebrush, grassland habitat.

Sensitivity: Low (8 birds observed during the biological survey [sections 2, 6, 11, and 5]; Appendix E). This species tends to be locally abundant in the area. Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because: (1) the relatively large number of birds associated with the surrounding area; and (2) similar construction activities in north and south-central New Mexico historically have not resulted in documented adverse affects on the biology, reproduction, or ecology of this species or similar species (Sullivan and Knight, 1994; Sullivan and Smartt, 1991a, 1991b, 1991c, 1994).

Additional Information: Although *F. sparverius* is neither a Federal nor State of New Mexico Endangered, or Sensitive species, all raptors are fully protected by the State of New Mexico. The American Kestrel is the smallest North American falcon and one of the most common. This species is usually seen hovering or sitting on exposed perches, such as poles, fence lines, wires, or treetops, where it hunts for rodents, insects, birds, lizards, or snakes. American Kestrels nest in tree cavities but will readily use holes in cliffs and crevices in buildings as well as nest boxes. This species is a common inhabitant of the Southwest and relatively arid grassland regions of New Mexico, including plains, open spaces, deserts, woodlands, and riparian habitats.

5.2.9 Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Status: Federal (Candidate); State (none).

Habitat: Plains, grasslands, deserts, woodlands, sagebrush, riparian areas. Preferred habitat is open country with scattered shrubs or small trees such as shelter-belts, cemeteries, farmsteads, and hedge-rows. In the west they breed in savanna, chaparral, or pine-oak woodland and prefer open stands. This species eats mostly grasshoppers and crickets, but also a variety of other insects, small mammals, birds, and reptiles.

Sensitivity: Low (17 birds observed during the biological survey [sections 1, 2, 5, 11, 12, 25, 26, 30E, 31W, 32W, 35, and 36]; Appendix E). This species is common along fenced access roads. Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because: (1) the relatively large number of birds observed in the project area; and (2) similar construction activities in north and south-central New Mexico historically have not resulted in documented adverse affects on the biology, reproduction, or ecology of this species or similar species (Sullivan and Knight, 1994; Sullivan and Smartt, 1991a, 1991b, 1991c, 1994).

Additional Information: Although the Loggerhead Shrike is a Federal Candidate species, its status is classified as unknown (U), indicating that additional survey work is required to determine its current distribution, abundance and population trends. This species inhabits open spaces, grasslands, deserts, woodlands, and riparian areas. Birds are commonly observed perching from fences that overlook grassland and sagebrush habitat, and from taller shrubs (*Atriplex*) that occur along roadways. The cause of the logger head shrike population declines may involve more efficient farming practices and increased use of pesticides along roadways and on farmlands. Location of hedge-rows, short shade trees, thorny vegetation, and reduction in native pasture-lands are probably the most important environmental factors associated with this species decline (Hunter, 1990).

5.2.10 Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*)

Status: Federal (Candidate); State of New Mexico (Protected).

Habitat: Open bare ground, desert grassland, sagebrush, Chihuahuan Desert scrub (creosotebush [*Larrea tridentata*], Tarbush [*Flourensia cernua*], and Honey Mesquite [*Prosopis glandulosa*]).

Sensitivity: Low (4 individuals observed [sections 1 and 36]; Appendix E). Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because of the small number of animals observed in the project area; however, *P. cornutum* is common in all surrounding areas, particularly White Sands Missile Range (R. M. Sullivan, pers. obs.). In addition, there was no evidence of mortality along the main paved or dirt roadways servicing the area, despite relatively heavy vehicular traffic. Lack of evidence of mortality of herptiles in an area can be a crude indication of the relative abundance of a particular herptile species in the affected area. Occasional loss of some reptiles and other small animals will likely result during and after construction of various projects and roadways associated with the WSTF facilities. Some mortality is inevitable given the affinity that most species of reptiles have for warm roadways during the early morning and evening hours. For example, resident populations of reptiles exhibiting normal daily and seasonal movements associated with feeding and reproductive behavior will be subject to occasional mortality by vehicular traffic, particularly along NASA Road.

Additional Information: The Texas horned lizard is common in desert areas throughout southern and central New Mexico. These horned lizards live in shrubland, desert grassland, and associated juniper woodland. They feed mostly on ants, and occur in areas where ants, particularly seed harvester ants belonging to the genus *Pogonomyrmex*, are abundant. Currently, this species has no State of New Mexico status; however, all species of horned lizards are protected in New Mexico and specific permits are required from the NMDGF to collect these lizards. Techniques used during the wildlife survey were adequate to assess the presence of this diurnal species under normal conditions. Hibernation generally occurs in September or early October, with the first cold weather. It emerges during the following spring in mid-April or early May.

5.2.11 Round-tailed Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma modestum*)

Status: Federal (none); State of New Mexico (Protected).

Habitat: Open bare ground, desert grassland, sagebrush, Chihuahuan Desert scrub (creosotebush [*Larrea tridentata*], Tarbush [*Flourensia cernua*], and Honey Mesquite [*Prosopis glandulosa*]).

Sensitivity: Low (12 individuals observed [sections 1, 2, 5, 25, 26, 27, 30E, 31W, 32W, and 36]; Appendix E). Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because of the relatively small number of animals observed in the project area; however, *P. cornutum* is common in all surrounding areas, particularly White Sands Missile Range (R. M. Sullivan, pers. obs.). In addition, there was no evidence of mortality along the main paved or dirt roadways servicing the area, despite relatively heavy vehicular traffic.

Additional Information: Although *P. modestum* has no Federal status, all species of horned lizards are protected in New Mexico. Round-tailed horned lizards are common in desert areas throughout southern and central New Mexico. These horned lizards live in Chihuahuan Desert shrubland, desert grassland, and associated juniper woodland. They feed mostly on ants, and occur in areas where ants, particularly seed harvester ants belonging to the genus *Pogonomyrmex*, are abundant.

5.2.12 Pale Townsend's (Western) Big-eared Bat (*Plecotus townsendii pallescens*)

Status: Federal (Candidate); State of New Mexico (Protected).

Habitat: This species is found from low desert habitats up to the fir habitat zones. The presence of this species may be more a function of suitable shelters than specific ecological habitat type per se. *P. t. pallescens* will roost in caves, mines, and manmade structures that are abandoned or have low disturbance levels.

Sensitivity: Low (2 individual bats observed in the roofing panels of the Love Ranch house). Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because the Love Ranch house is in an undisturbed area that is well away from any testing or construction activity. This area and historical structures associated with the ranch house should be protected.

5.2.13 Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*)

Status: Federal (Candidate); State of New Mexico (Protected).

Habitat: Bare ground, open desert, grassland-juniper habitat, Chihuahuan Desert scrub (Creosotebush [*Larrea tridentata*], Tarbush [*Flourensia cernua*], Honey Mesquite [*Prosopis glandulosa*]); nests in abandoned rodent burrows.

Sensitivity: Low (3 birds was observed in section 27). Sensitivity of this species is considered to be low because of the general lack of birds, active burrows, or evidence of old burrow systems in the immediate vicinity of the property, particularly disturbed areas. Trenching or other ground disturbing activities through occupied burrowing owl habitat should be avoided. If necessary, work should only proceed if owls have vacated the site on their own volition.

Additional Information: Western Burrowing Owls nest and feed within abandoned rodent burrows that have been modified by digging and scraping with the beak, wings, and feet. Western Burrowing Owls also frequent disturbed or man-made embankments, and along fence lines (Sullivan and Knight, 1994; R. M. Sullivan, pers. obs.).

5.2.14 Northern Aplomado Falcon (*Falcon femoralis septentrionalis*)

Status: Federal (Endangered); State of New Mexico (Endangered Group 1).

Habitat: *F. f. septentrionalis* has been documented in a variety of open woodland, savanna, and grassland habitats (Hector 1981, USFWS 1990). Within the Chihuahuan desert, *F. f. septentrionalis* typically occur in open grasslands with scattered mesquite and or yuccas (Ligon 1981, Montoya and Zwank 1995). Montoya and Zwank (1995) found in home ranges of *F. f. septentrionalis* in Chihuahua, Mexico, woody vegetation densities varied from 12.1 to 151.3 plants per hectare and ground cover ranged from 28.9% to 69.5%. There was no significant difference between nesting and non-nesting territories (means equalled 49.9% versus 37.8%, respectively). Home-range estimates varied from 2 to 22 square kilometers (0.5-8.5 square miles). Range of juvenile dispersal is uncertain at this time, but may range as far as 140 km (85 mi). Preferred habitat generally occurs below 2,000 m (6,500 ft) in lightly forested or open country from the southwestern border of U.S., where it is nearly extinct, south to southern Mexico and suitable areas throughout South America. It is migratory at the northern and southern extremes of its range.

Recent confirmed sightings of *F. f. septentrionalis* on WSMR have heightened interest in this species. Several areas currently are being considered for designation as potential "critical habitat" set-a-sides for *F. f. septentrionalis* (Daisan E. Taylor and David Holderman, WSMR Directorate of Environment and Safety, Environmental Services Division [DES-E], pers. comm., and WSMR 1996); these areas include grassland-yucca-scrub and yucca-grassland habitats. Currently, the USFWS and WSMR DES-E are updating their survey methodology for *F. f. septentrionalis* in New Mexico (Leal et al. 1996⁵). In addition, WSMR is in the process of developing survey procedures and schedules that will accommodate the needs of potential contractors/customers regarding access or use of areas that potentially fall within critical habitat set-a-sides for *F. f. septentrionalis* (David Holderman, WSMR DES-E, pers. comm.); these recommendations may be useful to WSTF.

Sensitivity: Low—no individuals of this species were observed during biological inventories of the WSTF facility; however, recent sightings suggest that *F. f. septentrionalis* may be expanding its range into southern New Mexico (USFWS pers. comm. 1995).

⁵ Note: The Leal et al., document recommends that system-wide surveys of the Northern Aplomado Falcon and its "critical habitat" should be conducted on a year-round basis; however, the majority (approximately 2/3) of all system-wide surveys should be conducted between 1 February and 31 August.

Additional Information: *F. f. septentrionalis* often is seen perched on conspicuous snags, telephone wires, or on the ground. In the Southwest, it breeds in association with desert grassland habitats where pairs use abandoned nests of other raptors (Swainson's Hawks, Chihuahuan Ravens [*Corvus cryptoleucus*]) situated more than 2 m above the ground (range 3-8 m). Nests are usually in forks of yuccas or in tops of mesquite and other cacti (Bailey 1928; Bent 1938; NMDGF 1991). Eggs are laid from March until June, primarily in mid-April. Incubation lasts from 31 to 33 days. Both sexes participate in incubation and young fledge approximately 35 days after hatching. Fledglings may remain in the vicinity of the nest for at least a month after fledging (Hector 1981).

Research conducted by Hector (1981), Jiménez (1993), and Montoya and Zwank (1995) show a wide array of birds, insects, mammals, and reptiles that have been documented in diets of Aplomado Falcons. In eastern Mexico, birds comprised 94% of individual prey items and 35% of prey items that were observed being captured, while insects comprised approximately 65% of prey items seen captured (Hector 1985). Hector (1981) determined that birds composed 97% of the prey biomass. Montoya and Zwank (1995) found a similar preference for avian prey items with meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta* and *S. magna*), common nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), and mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) the most frequently taken avian species in northern Chihuahua. Prey includes such rapid fliers as parrots, snipe, doves, and pigeons. Prey items may be caught on the ground or in the air. Pairs often hunt together, frequently late in the day after sunset. Pairs may cooperate in catching birds.

F. f. septentrionalis was widespread and common in deserts of the southern quarter of New Mexico during late 19th and early 20th centuries (Hector 1987; NMDGF 1991). Several breeding records and specimens were taken from the Jornada del Muerto desert that spans parts of Doña Ana, Sierra, and Socorro counties. The northernmost historical record for this region is from 40 km (64.4 mi) north of Engle, New Mexico, and 70 km (112.7 mi) north of Alamogordo (Hector 1987). Confirmed observations of single birds have been made recently on the Jornada del Muerto and in the Tularosa Basin. A small breeding population is known in the Mexican state of Chihuahua (NMDGF 1991).

5.2.15 White Sands Woodrat (*Neotoma micropus leucophaea*)

Status: Federal (Candidate); State of New Mexico (Sensitive).

Habitat: The endemic White Sands woodrat (*Neotoma micropus leucophaea*) may live around the bases of cholla or in burrows along the sides of arroyos or at the bases of shrubs. However, in situations where *N. micropus* and the White-throated woodrat (*N. albigula*) occur together, *N. micropus* generally occupies open grassland and arroyo-side situations, whereas *N. albigula* is found in rocky foothill habitats.

Sensitivity: Low—this species was not observed, and typical habitat for this species was, in most situations, well away from existing facilities. Determination of the presence of this species in the project area would require extensive live-animal trapping of typical habitat. Typical habitat, consisting of sand dunes and associated vegetation, was not observed except in small regions along the southeast border of the WSTF facility.

6 SENSITIVE HABITAT AREAS

6.1 RAPTOR USE AREAS

Eight species of raptorial bird species were observed during the biologic field survey (i.e., Coopers Hawk [*Accipiter cooperii*, 2 individuals], Golden Eagle [*Aquila chrysaetos*, 8 individuals], Red-tailed Hawk [*Buteo jamaicensis*, 18 individuals], Swainson's Hawk [*Buteo swainsoni*, 9 individuals], Turkey Vulture [*Cathartes aura*, 39 individuals], Northern Harrier [*Circus cyaneus*, 7 individuals], American Kestrel [*Falco sparverius*, 8 individuals], and Western Burrowing Owl [*Speotyto cunicularia hypugea*, 1 individual]) (Appendix E). Although several pairs of raptors were observed nesting in the area, there was no clearly defined raptor use area or ecological region/habitat associated with the property. All upland shrub habitat and the ecotone between shrub and desert grassland habitats associated with the foothills of Quartzite Mountain and the San Andres Mountains, however, function as a prime nesting area for the large populations of the Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*), White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*), and Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*).

All sightings of Cooper's Hawks were made within mesic upland vegetation and piñon pine-juniper woodland found within foothills of the San Andres Mountain Range, Bear Creek Canyon, and the Love Ranch areas. These wooded areas provide abundant cover, nesting and perching sites, and ephemeral sources of free water. In addition, there was generally a large prey-base of perching birds associated with various canyons and arroyos in this area. This kind of habitat provides an ideal habitat for the Cooper's Hawk, which is a medium-sized bird-eating species.

Golden Eagles were generally associated with lowland areas at the western boundary of the WSTF property (Sections 5, 6, 11, 27, 30, 31E). These birds were observed soaring overhead in the early morning hours. Canyons, drainages, and other upland areas in the nearby foothills of the San Andres Mountains likely provide nest sites suitable for use by golden eagles and other large raptors, whereas lowland desert grasslands and scrub vegetation provide important hunting areas for small to medium-sized mammalian prey items.

Most observations of Swainson's and Red-tailed hawks were associated with the line of power poles along NASA Road from Highway 70 to the main WSTF Gate. These birds perch on electrical power-poles, while feeding on prey, searching the desert floor and scrub habitat below for insects or small vertebrates, or while sunning during the cool early morning hours.

During the biological survey, 8 large stick nests were found within Sections 5, 6, 31W and 32W (Figure 3). All nests were in relatively good structural condition and were located in sandy clay swales and playas within Chihuahuan desertscrub vegetation. The primary nest-tree species were Honey Mesquite and Desert Sumac. Six nests contained young Chihuahuan Ravens (*Corvus cryptoleucus*), whereas two nests contained chicks of the Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). A spring follow-up raptor survey should be conducted throughout all low lying habitat to determine the percent use and fledgling success rate of desert-scrub habitat by raptors on all low-lying WSTF property. In addition, every effort should be made to avoid impacting raptor nests or disturbing nesting and fledgling raptor chicks.

6.2 FORAGING AREAS

Mule deer were abundant on the WSTF site, as evidenced by frequent observation of individual deer and groups of as many as 12 individuals. Foraging and bedding areas, travel corridors, antler castings, tracks, and feces also were common. Areas of high concentrations of deer exist throughout much of the area associated with the foothills of the San Andres Mountains, along major west drainages (Bear Canyon), artificial watering areas, and most well developed and densely vegetated arroyos. Drainages and adjacent low-land slopes associated with grassland-scrub habitat and arroyo vegetation function as important travel corridors, bedding sites, and foraging areas for deer and many other medium to small-sized mammals in the project area.

Mule deer sign was also common along virtually all slopes and ridgetops in the project area, where mule deer browse on saltbush (*Atriplex*), mountain mahogany (*Cerocarpus*), Apache plume (*Fallugia*), winterfat (*Ceratoides*), and squawbrush (*Rhus*). Additionally, cover provided by vegetation in these areas contributes to the well-being of mule deer by providing shelter, increasing their chances of escape from predators, and fostering a sense of security—a number of studies indicate that the latter factor may be highly significant in maintaining mule deer in

good physical condition (Dasmann 1971). Critical cover must alleviate to tolerable limits the cold, wetness, and snow depths of winter, heat and insect annoyance of summer, and harassment by predators and humans.

The biologic unit (territory occupied by an individual mule deer herd) for mule deer over much of its range in New Mexico consists of a winter range, or a group of related winter ranges, and their complementary spring, summer, and fall ranges where the majority of the animals that use the winter range spend the balance of the year. Ungrazed grassland and scrub vegetation associated with the foothills surrounding the project area is an important winter range for mule deer. In the project area, the winter range occupies a more limited area than the summer range—animals that wander over several thousand acres in the warmer months usually concentrate in a much smaller territory because of unfavorable conditions during the winter. Because home ranges of mule deer must offer food, water, and cover, any additional disturbances (particularly to the winter range) that create less closer combinations of these three essential elements will tend to decrease mule deer numbers in the general area. Therefore, maintenance of existing levels of natural vegetation is critical to habitat management of mule deer on the WSTF site.

6.3 EPHEMERAL WATER SOURCES

Average annual precipitation at WSTF is about 36 cm (14 in). Most precipitation occurs in the summer and an average of about 1.3 cm (0.5 in) occurs each month from January through May. Although intense summer thunderstorms frequently release heavy but brief rainfalls over a restricted geographical area, there are no natural sources of perennial free water on the WSTF property. Gardner Spring was once a natural source of water, however overtime it has become ephemeral. Several man-made watering areas associated with Section 25 and 26 (Water Tower and 200 Area), and Section 2 (Sewage Lagoons [Nos. 640 and 136; Figure 3]), but these sources provide the only significant perennial sources of free water and foraging areas for a variety of wildlife species.

The primary source of free water for wildlife derives from numerous arroyos and several larger drainages associated with the foothills of the San Andres Mountains, which receives runoff and has natural, but ephemeral, water catchments. The western flank of the San Andres Mountains

drains into the Jornada del Muerto Basin, but this watershed is relatively small in total area (8.5 km² [2.3 sq mi]). There are no perennial stream flows in the area, and deeply incised arroyos typically contain debris-laden flow during and shortly following summer storms. Gardner Arroyo trends west through the facility near the 500 Area and 200 Area. One of its branches is very close to the expansive Bear Creek canyon area, which is the primary arroyo to the north.

The Bear Canyon drainage receives the largest amount of runoff during the monsoon season and is an important ephemeral source of free water for wildlife during the summer months. Limestone and igneous bedrock collects and pools water in depressions that can be used by wildlife as a annual source of water, which lies adjacent to vegetative cover. This drainage probably receives the largest amounts of use by wildlife following periods of summer and early fall precipitation. In this drainage various shrubs provide cover and perching substrates for a variety of passerine birds. In this drainage, water will remain for longer periods of time if shrubs and trees remain undisturbed, because they provide shading, thus increasing the quality of this arroyo as important wildlife habitat.

7 PROJECTED BIOLOGICAL IMPACTS

It is assumed that this report will be used for current and future operation and construction activities at the WSTF site. Thus this report will provide a baseline planning document for future testing and construction projects. This section, therefore, emphasizes those areas that have been identified as potentially sensitive habitat or important wildlife use sites. Impacts to vegetation and wildlife species are considered adverse if: (1) preexisting wildlife cannot be supported following removal or alteration of vegetation from the property; (2) project-associated disturbance such as habitat destruction, noise, human presence, project operation, pollution, etc., results in long-term wildlife population decreases that are greater than one breeding season; and (3) severe erosion occurs from removal of vegetation or other disturbance resulting in irreversible effects to the surrounding habitat.

7.1 VEGETATION

Loss of vegetation along arroyos can result in a loss of soil stability causing adverse erosion problems. Absence of grazing by livestock and the relative lack of human disturbance to vegetation and edaphic conditions within the WSTF area has allowed the site to remain in a relatively natural state; however, disturbance to slopes and foothills of the San Andres Mountains and the banks of arroyos will cause erosion, habitat deterioration, and overall loss of biological diversity and species richness of local plants and animals.

7.2 WILDLIFE

Plant and wildlife inventories are time specific. Species composition and patterns of distribution observed during one sampling period are biased and likely to change on a seasonal as well as a yearly basis. Moreover, irrespective of the specifics of the environmental setting, plant and wildlife species can be adversely affected by a potentially large number of extraneous factors associated with construction activity, including: (1) human disturbance (noise, human presence, powerline and fence entanglement); (2) pollution; (3) direct loss of habitat; (4) and indirect loss of habitat associated with habitat fragmentation. In addition, any decrease in species diversity tends to also decrease the stability of the ecosystem, both ecologically and energetically. Further,

any decrease in stability increases the danger of fluctuations in populations of economically important species in the immediate area.

7.3 NOISE EFFECTS

Although testing and new construction activity at WSTF will cause some degree of noise disturbance, most of these impacts should be temporary or infrequent. Therefore, if current levels of noise associated to ongoing testing are maintained into the future, no adverse threat to populations of wildlife or their critical habitats would be anticipated.

However, adverse impacts on species of raptors and songbirds in the local area surrounding the site could result from the effects of noise and other disruptive activity if elevated noise levels occur during the breeding or nesting periods. For example, these man-made activities could cause raptors and other groups of birds to abandon their nests or young. In addition, these kinds of man-made disturbances may function as a deterrent to foraging activity during critical periods of the breeding and nesting cycles, as well as interfering with the raising of young to the fledgling stage.

From a resource management perspective, therefore, it is recommend that testing and construction activities be conducted in accordance with a policy for coexistence with the environment and conservation of biotic diversity. Minimal impact on nesting passerine birds and raptors found or potentially occurring in the area would result from testing or construction activities and noise if the following measures were implemented: (1) biological surveys of sensitive species should be performed prior to any planned construction activity or project; (2) large-scale construction activities that result in considerable noise should be curtailed during breeding and nesting activity if future biological surveys of each affected area show the presence of sensitive species; and (3) all generators and other on-site equipment should be equipped with muffling devices to assure that noise levels are reduced to minimum levels consistent with efficient operation; and (4) vehicles and other mobile equipment should be maintained in accordance with accepted maintenance practices to assure that operating equipment is free of defects that could contribute to excessive noise levels (Skaggs, 1990; Cunniff et al., 1991a; 1991b; 1991c).

7.4 POLLUTION

Toxic chemicals and other hazardous materials can spill into arroyos, drainages, and other low lying areas on the site where water collects in shallow depressions. This kind of man-made pollution can have adverse environmental consequences that may result in negative direct or indirect impacts on the survival or reproduction of plants and wildlife that rely on arroyo topography and vegetation for food, cover, or dispersal corridors into and out of the area. In the study area all natural free water sources are ephemeral—restricted to low lying and temporary pools of rain water, and arroyo flow. These sources of free water, therefore may not be continuously flushed (= cleaned) by natural precipitation, which can cause them to be highly susceptible to pollution. Effects of pollution on survival and reproduction of local wildlife should be continuously monitored in association with the four primary WSTF hazardous waste management units, including: (1) container storage unit, (2) hazardous waste evaporation tank system, (3) open detonation unit, and (4) fuel treatment units.

7.5 LOSS OF HABITAT AND HABITAT FRAGMENTATION

Fragmentation of native habitat represents a direct and observable loss of wildlife resources and may increase the level of predation on native wildlife species. These resources may include watering areas, foraging areas, travel corridors, and cover, nesting, and bedding sites. Fragmentation of native habitat, therefore generally results in an overall decrease in species density and richness. Fragmentation and resulting loss of natural habitat associated with new testing and construction activities can cause adverse impacts to wildlife habitat in the local area. Although this loss may not be immediately apparent, overtime it will have an accumulative negative effect on local plant and animal species diversity and density—which will be difficult, as well as expensive, to reclaim once lost. These areas primarily include: (1) ecotones between arroyo and scrub vegetation associated with both minor and major drainages; (2) the ecotones between arroyo vegetation and woodland vegetation at the eastern boundary of the property at the base of the Quartzite Mountain and the San Andres Mountains; and (3) areas of great natural topographic diversity.

8 GENERAL AREAS OF SENSITIVITY

Following completion of the biologic field survey, literature review, and consultation with State and Federal agencies, varying levels of sensitivity were placed on different regions of the project area based on our previous experience with similar actions. Levels of sensitivity were based on the ability of a particular area to support: (1) unique or Endangered species of plants and animals, (2) a high diversity of wildlife species, and (3) habitat attributes critical to species survival and reproduction of wildlife populations (i.e., foraging and watering areas, travel corridors, display and nesting sites, and breeding territories, etc.). Sensitivity levels also were based on the current distribution of highly disturbed sites. Direct observation suggested that those areas that had historically sustained the largest amount of habitat disturbance, also had the fewest native plant and animal species, and were in the poorest condition relative to more undisturbed habitat (i.e., arroyo vegetation).

Consultation with State of New Mexico and Federal resource agencies will be necessary, and is recommended, for future projects at the WSTF site to obtain updated information on species of special concern, and because in many instances the information from different Federal and State of New Mexico agencies is not consistent. The following sensitivity levels have been assigned to specific regions in the WSTF testing area.

8.1 CRITICAL

No habitat critical to the survival or reproduction of any listed species of plant or animal was observed on or in the immediate vicinity of the WSTF property. The term "critical habitat" for a Threatened or Endangered species means:

- (i) the specific areas within the geographic area occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with provisions of section 4 of the ESA, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to conservation of the species and, which may require special management considerations or protection and;

- (ii) the specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of ESA, upon determination by the Secretary of the Interior that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

8.2 HIGH

High sensitivity areas were identified as having a combination of three or more of the following occurring in association with one another—ephemeral water sources, travel corridors, bedding areas, cover, and foraging areas. High sensitivity is also based on the amount of habitat available to wildlife in the vicinity of the project area, and on the areas potential to support sensitive species. Loss or disturbance of high sensitivity areas will likely result in long-term or permanent alterations in population sizes and reproductive potential in the vicinity of the project area, or use of the general area by wildlife.

On the WSTF site, regions of high sensitivity include: (1) the upper reaches of the Bear Canyon drainage, which drains east to west; (2) mesic woodland and arroyo vegetation associated with the Love Ranch area; and (3) the mesic woodland habitat associated with the northeast foothills of Quartzite Mountain and the San Andres Mountain Range. These areas are rich in biodiversity of both plants and animals, topographic relief, and provides natural water catchments and cover for wildlife.

8.3 MODERATE

Areas of moderate sensitivity were identified as having a combination two of the following occurring in association with one another—travel corridors, bedding areas, cover, and foraging areas. Areas of moderate sensitivity also receive consistent use by wildlife, although the amount of use is generally less than in highly sensitivity areas. This rating also is based on the amount of this habitat available to wildlife and on the ability of habitat to support sensitive species. Further, loss of moderate sensitivity areas can result in short-term impacts like temporary avoidance by wildlife that could result in long-term impacts to wildlife use areas if construction of a large number of projects caused fragmentation of habitat in the vicinity of proposed site.

On the WSTF site, regions of moderate sensitivity are associated with desert grassland and associated shrubby vegetation lying at the base of the foothills of Quartzite Mountain and the San Andres Mountain Range, including the primary WSTF testing areas and the western boundary of the property.

8.4 LOW

Areas considered to be of low sensitivity receive little use by wildlife species, because they have been physically altered by human disturbance or overgrazing (Sections 31, 32, 6, 5), and which provide reduced topographic relief and vegetation diversity associated with food and cover. Within the WSTF property these areas primarily included all remaining habitat, including most of the roadways to the north that boarder or are contained within the Jornada Experimental Range.

Note: The definition of the term "sensitivity" is not intended as a NEPA term or as having a NEPA equivalent term (see 10 CFR 1021, Appendix B Point 4), "sensitive resources". Instead, sensitivity refers to a term developed specifically by us to illustrate zones or areas on WSTF modeled in section 9.0 above. Future actions within any sensitive area, as defined above, may or may not affect sensitive resources (i.e., NEPA term) found within or outside the designated area.

9 OVERALL IMPACTS TO BIOLOGIC RESOURCES

A variety of potential impacts could affect sensitive biologic resources such as endangered plants and animals, or unique plant communities on the site. These impacts can be classified into three broad categories: (1) direct impacts, (2) indirect impacts, and (3) cumulative impacts. These categories are defined in the following sections.

9.1 DIRECT IMPACTS

Direct impacts are those actions that have a direct and often immediate effect upon the resource. These conspicuous actions primarily include ground conversion activities (e.g., construction, fire, chemical spills, etc.). Once identified, direct effects are often easily mitigated.

9.1.1 Surface Disturbance Impacts

Surface disturbance can include a wide range of activities such as road or site facility construction, installation of utilities, or any other action that removes the existing plant and animal communities. Such activities can have devastating effects on rare plants and animals. Effects of surface disturbance range from immediate and total removal of the organism, to partial removal or disturbance.

Surface disturbance impacts are evident throughout much of the WSTF property, primarily in association with existing dirt roadways, Landfill, and existing test sites.

9.1.2 Fire

Most plants that exist in grassland and shrubland environments have evolved mechanisms for dealing with periodic natural fires. However, there was no clearly visible evidence of natural or man-made fires at the site. The relatively dense shrubland habitat associated with the eastern boundary of the WSTF site is a potential fire hazard, particularly in the Love Ranch area.

9.1.3 Deposition of Debris, Garbage, or Chemical Spills

Disposal of unwanted waste can often severely impact the area immediately around a disposal site; this is particularly true with chemical spills. Chemical materials can leach into the soil and kill vegetation in the surrounding area and can potentially poison native herbivores. Deposition of man-made debris, garbage, and discarded building materials were evident throughout much of the WSTF, particularly the Landfill area.

9.1.4 Pesticide and Herbicide Spraying

Pesticides and herbicides are often used to control insect infestations as well as the spread of unwanted weeds. These agents can often have adverse effects upon rare plants; and direct application of herbicides can result in the immediate death of the plant. Further, use of pesticides near rare plant sites can result in a reduction of pollinators that can lead to lack of pollination and failure of fruit set. There was no evidence of pesticide or herbicide spraying at the WSTF site.

9.1.5 Rural Fugitive Dust

Construction activities, dirt roads, or any other activity that results in dust generation can result in damage to the local flora. Rural fugitive dust is often deposited on the leaf surfaces of plants adjacent to the dust source. The resulting coating of dust can reduce the photosynthetic capacity of the plant and potentially leave it in a stressed condition. The northern-most dirt roadways that are shared with the Jornada Experimental Range exhibited some evidence of fugitive dust on vegetation.

9.1.6 Soil Deflation

Soil deflation can result in loss of all topsoil down to the hardpan layer. Soil deflation exposes root systems of plants and in many cases desiccation and death of plants. Except for the Landfill and the area around the 700 Area, there was no evidence of soil deflation.

9.2 INDIRECT IMPACTS

Indirect impacts include activities that are remote from a site but have the ability to significantly impact the site. It is suggested that the potential for indirect impacts be considered in WSTF resource management plan. Although there were few potential indirect impacts apparent, the effects of remote construction activities that may result in downstream flooding or sediment distribution seem to apply to the property.

For example, remote construction activities can often have subtle and damaging effects upon rare plants and animals. Any construction in the upper portion of Bear Creek Canyon watershed can alter the flow of storm water runoff, resulting in flooding or sediment deposition at a downstream location that would not normally be affected by such events.

9.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts include activities that, by themselves, may not have a significant impact but, by interacting with other factors/impacts, can have dramatic effects⁶. These are the most difficult to identify and usually the most difficult to control. One of the more obvious cumulative impacts can result from habitat fragmentation. Activities that by themselves may not affect an animal or plant often become significant factors when the habitat of that animal or plant is fragmented or reduced in size. The number of cumulative impacts is almost infinite and the chance combination of events that can lead to significant effects from cumulative impacts often relies on factors that happen as chance events over time. Generally, any factor that alters the natural habitat of a plant or animal can contribute to cumulative impacts on that species. Therefore, it is suggested that the potential for cumulative impacts be considered in the WSTF environmental resource management plan. What follows is a general discussion of some of the potential problems that could arise from cumulative impacts at the site.

⁶ In 1978, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) defined cumulative impacts as: "the incremental impact of the action when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative impacts result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time."

Construction of buildings and roads can cause fragmentation and loss of valuable travel corridors, cover, and foraging habitat. Moreover, the combination of separate, yet ongoing, projects in the immediate vicinity of the property can result in cumulative impacts to plants, animals and wildlife habitat through increases in noise and human presence, as well as habitat alteration. Construction of buildings and roads can cause fragmentation and loss of valuable travel corridors, cover, and foraging habitat. This combination of separate and ongoing projects nearby, together with WSTF activities can result in cumulative impacts to wildlife through increases in noise and human presence, as well as habitat alteration and pollution.

Because some of the area surrounding WSTF has been disturbed by past activities, including overgrazing along the western border (sections 5, 6, 31W, 32W), serious consideration should be given to the overall ecological consequences to plant species diversity and wildlife resulting from loss of habitat in this region. Future projects should consider using previously disturbed areas on the property or minimizing the amount of impact on the site by limiting the amount of permanent disturbances, and through specific and immediate habitat rehabilitation following completion of a particular project.

10 MITIGATION OF BIOLOGIC CONSEQUENCES

Many species that inhabit the WSTF area are not restricted to jurisdictional lines on a map. Because State and Federal resource agencies are the best sources of information regarding the management of biological resources. It is recommended that construction and operational activities be conducted in accordance with recently proposed national forest land and resource management plans⁷, as a baseline for affective management of the biological resources. These forest management plans provide for coexistence with the environment, preservation of sensitive species, maintenance of historical levels of biologic diversity, conservation and sustained use of other wildlife species, protection of vegetation, and wise use or protection of other natural resources on land withdrawn from the general public or private use.

Previous sections of this report summarized possible impacts that could affect plant and animal species and wildlife habitats that occur or potentially occur in the area. In order to avoid these effects, a variety of resource management policies can be enacted. These management prescriptions vary depending upon the sensitivity of habitat within an area. However, overall management prescriptions apply to all areas irrespective of whether rare plants or animals, or unique biological communities have been located at the site. It is recommended that the following measures be taken to reduce or avoid potential significant biological and ecological impacts associated with the project area, and that these recommendations be incorporated into current and future resource management plans. The following measures should be taken to reduce or avoid potential significant environmental impacts associated any planed construction of habitat modification.

10.1 Future Construction Projects

Future construction projects in the general vicinity of a site should be restricted to the maximum extent possible to previously disturbed portions of the property.

⁷ For example—Cibola National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1991—Changing Forest Landscapes: Five Years of Progress, Cibola National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan 1986-1990, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Southwestern Region, 85 pp.).

10.2 Future Buildings and Facilities

Future buildings and facilities should be constructed in close proximity to one another (clustered) to minimize the potential of further degradation of natural habitat and biodiversity.

10.3 Future Disturbance

If future disturbance is necessary, construction activities should be minimized during the nesting or breeding season of sensitive species of raptors or passerine birds that have been documented on the property.

10.4 Loss of Vegetation, Habitat Fragmentation, and Edge Effect

Habitat fragmentation should be avoided whenever possible. The effects on both rare and common plant communities are more pronounced when communities are cut up into small islands of native habitat. Fragmentation can be reduced by clustering facilities to previously disturbed sites. If clustering is not possible the next best management tool would be placement of facilities at the edge of large tracts of natural habitat, rather than in the center.

In the short-term, clearing natural vegetation along proposed construction corridors may result in loss of soil stability, excessive dust, erosion, and minor watershed alteration. Over the long-term, plant communities and ecological process may change substantially as a result of "edge effects" caused by fragmentation of wildlife habitat and associated man-made barriers. The outer boundary of any habitat is not a line but rather a "zone of influence" that varies in width depending on what is measured. Sunlight and wind impinge upon a patch of woodland from the edge and alter the local microclimate. Edge zones, which can change the entire species composition of a local plant community, are usually drier and less shady than natural shrub/woodland interiors, thus favoring shade-intolerant, xeric plants over typical native species.

Edges can cause some wildlife species to use less suitable travel corridors and foraging areas, thus increasing the potential risk of predation. In some instances, passerine birds are attracted to edges, which function as ecological traps. Further, birds nesting near the edge, may suffer high

rates of nest predation, thus greatly reducing fledgling success. Increased rates of nest predation by opportunistic predators may extend up to 600 m from an edge into a woodland interior.

10.5 Topographic Relief

Destruction of rocky ledges and hilly habitat associated natural desert shrub vegetation (i.e., sumac, piñon-juniper-oak woodland, etc.) should be avoided.

10.6 Natural Drainages

Future construction and access roads should not be built within 30 m (100 ft) of either side of existing natural drainages or arroyos; and erosion control measures should be installed on structures and roads built along the length of arroyos. Around construction sites and roads, runoff should continue to be directed by way of ditches and grading to natural drainage channels (arroyos).

10.7 Construction Debris

Strict standards should be imposed to prevent dirt, loose rock, brush, human refuse, or other debris resulting from construction activities from being deposited into arroyos or canyons.

10.8 Vehicular Traffic

Vehicular traffic outside immediate construction sites and designated access roads should be prohibited, particularly within areas of natural vegetation. Restriction should include all staff, transient test observers, construction personnel, and equipment operators. Vehicles should be restricted to designated access routes only. If access to these areas is unavoidable, users should be specifically briefed by a qualified staff biologist/environmental scientist as to the location of any managed/sensitive biological areas/resources.

10.9 Trenching

Open trenches, splice pits, and ditches can trap small vertebrates and cause injury to large mammals. Periods of highest activity for many nocturnal and crepuscular species include warm summer months and wet weather. Loss of wildlife can be minimized by implementing the following recommendations (see Trenching Guidelines, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, November 1994): (1) Minimize the amount of open trenches at any given time by keeping trenching and back-filling crews close together. (2) Trench during cooler months (October-March); however, there may be exceptions (e.g., critical wintering areas) that need to be assessed on a site-specific basis. (3) Avoid wetland and riparian areas. (4) Avoid leaving trenches open overnight. Where trenches cannot be back-filled immediately, escape ramps should be constructed at least every 90 m. State-wide there are 41 threatened, endangered or sensitive species potentially at risk by trenching operations. Risk to these species depends upon a wide variety of conditions at the trenching site, such as trench depth, side slope, soil characteristics, season, and precipitation events.

10.10 Hazardous and Toxic Materials

Hazardous and toxic materials should be stored on a level concrete pad away from all arroyo drainages, catchment basins, and low-lying grassland habitat. Any chemical spills or excess concrete should be cleaned up immediately, and not dumped in drainages. Fuels, oils, or other chemicals must not be poured or drained onto ground surfaces, and containment devices should be placed around these materials in the event of spills. Any dumping of human refuse or building debris should be prohibited in and around the vicinity of the property and along existing roadways. All dumping and storage of trash, garbage, metal, bottles, and other man-made waste should be strictly prohibited within the property at all times.

10.11 Recyclable Waste

All recyclable waste from previous activity and tests should be collected and disposed of in accordance with the facility recycling plan. This action also will help prevent small unwanted animal "pests" (rodents, arthropods, poisonous snakes, etc.) from taking shelter near testing

facilities, particularly in areas where discarded/old equipment and buildings materials are stored adjacent to test area buildings.

10.12 Fire Control

Fire control and suppression equipment should be in place at all times of the year. This is particularly important around Love Ranch and Bear Creek Canyon where there is extensive scrubland vegetation and unique habitat types. A coordinated fire suppression program (if not already in place) could be organized among these neighboring agencies.

10.13 Water Sources

Natural watering areas, arroyos, sewage lagoons, and artificial water pooling areas (e.g., water tanks, evaporative cooling run off, etc.) provide a source of free water for wildlife in the surrounding area. These areas also have a high species richness and diversity. Every effort, therefore, should be made to restrict access and human disturbance to these areas of high biological diversity.

10.14 Noxious and Exotic Weeds

Under guidance from Section 15 of the 1990 Farm Bill (Management of Undesirable Plants on Federal Lands), the Federal Noxious Weed act of 1974, and Executive Order 11897 (Exotic Organisms), WSTF has responsibilities to control noxious weeds in the installation. To help in this effort, WSTF should consider exotic and noxious weed control in all areas affected by future proposed construction until native vegetation has been reestablished, depending upon the extent of disturbance and the size of the affected area. Various control measures include hand weeding and/or limited herbicide use in specific target areas, based on herbicide trials with African rue (*Pegunum harmala*). Specific guidelines regarding weed control and a list of southwestern noxious weeds include: leafy spurge (*Euphorbia escula*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), diffuse napweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia dalmatica*), yellow toadflax, (*Linaria vulgaris*), African rue (*Pegunum harmala*), halogenton (*Halogenton*

glomeratus), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), Russian thistle (*Salsoa iberica*), Scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), salt cedar (*Tamarisk spp.*).

10.14.1 Background on African Rue

African rue is an introduced plant species from North Africa that has invaded 1000's of acres on White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) and Holloman Air Force Base (HAFB). This species is extremely drought tolerant, tolerates saline and alkaline soils, and is toxic to ungulates, because it contains allelopathic chemical compounds that retard and prevent growth of native vegetation. For example, on HAFB African rue is displacing native vegetation and is spreading along all roadways, native dune areas, and around Lake Holloman. Removal of native vegetation through blading, chemical measures, and other means has allowed for rapid infestation of African rue and other weeds onto barren soil. Blading and mowing of highway shoulders, fields, etc., also has served to spread seed over wider areas. Construction of pipelines, sewer lines, power lines, blasting activities, etc., are factors that have encouraged heavy infestation rates.

Aggressive native plant restoration and re-vegetation efforts are typically required in areas that incur severe ground disturbance. Control measures to reduce the likelihood of African rue invasion at all future proposed construction sites include: (1) immediate seeding with native plant seed mixtures at 2-3 times greater than normal application rates; (2) covering seeded areas with erosion control material/mats so rue seed can not get established; (3) watering to encourage sprouting of native vegetation; (4) re-vegetating areas with plants instead of seeds; and/or (4) physically removing any African rue plants (by hand) until native vegetation becomes re-established.

Mechanical removal of plants and roots by digging will work in areas with only a few isolated plants. Routine mowing and blading activities should be minimized or discontinued where appropriate. In areas of gravel or bare soil re-vegetation efforts with appropriate native plants may be a viable option for contractors. All such activities adopted by WSTF should be coordinated with a qualified member of the WSTF environmental resource staff.

10.14.2 Trenching

Open trenches, splice pits, and ditches can trap small vertebrates and cause injury to large mammals. Periods of highest activity for many nocturnal and crepuscular species include warm summer months and wet weather. Loss of wildlife can be minimized by implementing the following recommendations (NMDGF 1994; WSMR 1995a):

- Minimize the number of open trenches at any given time by keeping trenching and back-filling crews close together.
- Trench during cooler months (October-March); however, there may be exceptions (e.g., critical wintering areas) that need to be assessed on a site-specific basis.
- Avoid wetland and riparian areas.
- Avoid leaving trenches open overnight. Where trenches cannot be back-filled immediately, escape ramps should be constructed at least every 90 m (27 ft). State-wide there are 41 threatened, endangered or sensitive species potentially at risk by trenching operations. Risk to these species depends upon a wide variety of conditions at the trenching site, such as trench depth, side slope, soil characteristics, season, and precipitation events.

10.14.3 Sand Dune Habitat

Construction requiring operation of heavy-duty trenching or digging equipment (i.e., track or rubber vehicles, etc.) should follow in previously disturbed routes and avoid, to the maximum extent possible, all sand dune habitat. In the event that natural dune habitat is destroyed by construction activities, plantings of native shrubs, forbs, grasses, etc., should be applied by the contractor to ensure that the natural vegetative cover is reestablished, and the natural dune ecosystem is not degraded. Mats or other stabilizing materials may need to be applied to ensure that native vegetation gets reestablished; these activities should be coordinated with a qualified biologist.

10.14.4 Wetland and Riparian Areas

Because a large number of construction projects (i.e., roads, bridges, trenching cables, etc.) disturb small areas of aquatic, wetland, or riparian habitat, these activities have a significant potential cumulative impact on these habitats. The following recommendations were developed with the intent of avoiding or minimizing adverse effects of such projects on fragile and limited aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats (see 1994 NMDGF recommendations for *Bridge and Road Construction/Reconstruction Guidelines for Wetland and Riparian Areas*). Depending upon the full extent of disturbance and mitigation, these recommendations will be particularly relevant to areas of future construction activity located along the Bear Creek drainage.

10.14.4.1 Historical Perspective and Extent of the Problem in New Mexico

Of 867 species of vertebrates known to occur in New Mexico, approximately 479 (55%) rely wholly, or in part, on aquatic, wetland, or riparian habitat for their survival⁸—439 species of vertebrates are known to occur in the vicinity of WSTF and the adjacent WSMR (WSMR 1995a).

A majority of the 96 species that are listed by the State of New Mexico as endangered or threatened are associated with these habitats (51 species, or 53% of the total). Surface water comprises only 0.2% (141,440 acres) of the surface area of New Mexico⁹. Wetlands and riparian areas comprise another 0.6% (481,900 acres)³. It is estimated that one-third of the wetlands that once existed in New Mexico have been lost¹⁰. On the main stem of the Rio Grande, the situation is worse—an 87% decrease in wetland acreage occurred along this river from 1918 to 1982¹¹. The

⁸ New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. 1994. *Biota Information System of New Mexico (BISON-M)*, Version 2.5. Santa Fe, New Mexico.

⁹ U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey. 1970. *The National Atlas of the United States of America*. Washington, D.C. 417 pages.

¹⁰ Dahl, T.E. 1990. *Wetlands Losses in the United States, 1780s to 1980s*. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 21 pages.

¹¹ Hink, V.C. and R.D. Ohmart. 1984. *Middle Rio Grande Biological Survey*. Report submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Contract Number DACW47-81-C-0015. 58 pages.

quality of these habitats also has been diminished. Of the 6,000 miles of streams in New Mexico, approximately 3,226 miles (54%) are impaired to some degree by water pollution¹².

10.14.4.2 Recommendations

10.14.4.2.1 Minimum Notice

A minimum notice of 30 days is requested by the NMDGF prior to the planning deadline for the project. This lead time is necessary for any habitat evaluation or biological inventory that may be required to collect information for project scoping and to establish baseline conditions.

10.14.4.2.2 Comprehensive On-Site Supervision

Comprehensive on-site supervision of the project contractor should be conducted by the project sponsor to ensure that specifications are followed. Post-construction mitigation likewise should be monitored to ensure that agreed-upon measures are implemented successfully. The NMDGF requests notification upon project initiation and completion, as well as implementation and completion of mitigation measures.

10.14.4.2.3 Minimize Impacts on Vegetation

Efforts must be made during construction to minimize impacts on vegetative communities. Existing roads and rights-of-way should be used for all transportation. Off-road driving should be avoided. Staging areas should be located in previously disturbed sites, where possible, and kept as small as possible. Road realignments should be designed to minimize the amount of construction in previously undisturbed areas.

¹² Water Quality Control Commission. 1992. *Water Quality and Water Pollution Control in New Mexico, 1992*. A report prepared for submission to the Congress of the United States by the State of New Mexico pursuant to Section 305(b) of the Federal Clean Water Act. NMED/SWQ-92/1. New Mexico Environment Department, Santa Fe, New Mexico. 263 pages.

10.14.4.2.4 Topsoil Removal

All topsoil removed for construction should be stockpiled and used as surface fill in reclamation of the project area. Following construction, disturbed areas should be revegetated using native species that approximate predisturbance plant community composition or native plant communities likely to be found in the area, whichever is more beneficial to wildlife. Other plant species may be used to provide quick establishment of ground cover on highly erodible areas. A revegetation plan must be included as a component of the project mitigation plan. The revegetation plan should specify: (1) areas to be planted; (2) species to be planted in each area; (3) quantity of species (e.g., pounds of seed per acre, number of poles, number of saplings) to be planted at each location; and (4) monitoring and maintenance (e.g., protection of the plantings).

10.14.4.2.5 Tree Replacement

All trees that are removed that are greater than six inches diameter at breast height should be replaced, at a suitable location near the site, at a 4:1 ratio. The project proponent should guarantee to monitor and maintain the plantings over a four-year period to ensure at least 80% survival at the end of that period in each planting area. This guarantee should be specified in the mitigation plan. If monitoring and maintenance cannot be guaranteed, trees should be replaced at a 10:1 ratio with cottonwood poles, saplings, or appropriate native tree species. All other woody vegetation should be replaced on an acre-by-acre basis with native species.

10.14.4.2.6 On-Site Revegetation

If possible, revegetation should be conducted on the disturbed site. If no suitable areas occur on-site (e.g., native riparian forest already exists, stocking level precludes planting additional trees, land ownership problems, etc.), where possible, revegetation plots should be located in the immediate vicinity of the impacted site. Consideration should be given to restoring areas dominated by non-native species such as salt-cedar, Russian olive, and Siberian elm.

10.14.4.2.7 Erosion Control

Erosion control measures must be implemented during construction to prevent introduction of sediment-laden runoff into surface waters (e.g., hay bales, silt screens, settling basins, sediment traps). No material excavated for bridge approaches may be introduced into the stream. Exposed soils, particularly on slopes, must be stabilized with vegetation as soon as possible to prevent excessive erosion.

10.14.4.2.8 Drainage Control

Drainage control features of the project must be designed to prevent soil erosion and impacts to surface-water quality. These measures should include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) culvert inverts should be level with existing channel bottom at inflow and outflow; (2) slope of culvert should match the gradient of the stream channel; (3) in watercourses with high stream flow velocity, the outlet of the culvert should be armored to prevent stream-bed degradation; (4) bar ditches and roadside drainage features should be designed to prevent excessive flow velocity and gully formation through consideration of slope and incorporation of energy dissipation features; (5) settling basins should be installed in areas where runoff contains high sediment loads to prevent sedimentation of receiving waters; (6) based on site-specific conditions, raised culverts at road crossings of ephemeral streams may be employed to raise the water table upgradient and promote development of mesic or wetland habitat. The NMDGF should be consulted during the planning stage to determine if a raised culvert is appropriate.

10.14.4.2.9 Net Loss of Wetland Habitat

No net loss of wetland habitat quantity or quality should occur. If losses are unavoidable, mitigation should be designed to replace lost area and value through in-kind (i.e., same type of wetland habitat type), on-site measures. The next option is to mitigate in-kind, off-site, preferably at an existing wetland where the result of mitigation would be expansion or enhancement.

10.14.4.2.10 Wetland Creation, Restoration, Enhancement Plan

A wetland creation/restoration/enhancement plan should be included as a component of the project mitigation plan if wetland impacts are unavoidable. This plan should include the following features, which will provide information necessary to evaluate the potential for success: (1) a description of desired biological and hydrological values and functions of the wetland creation/restoration/enhancement is necessary to establish objectives of the mitigation; (2) scale plans that describe location, configuration, aerial extent, side slopes and depth contours of proposed wetland creation/restoration sites; (3) profiles of proposed wetland creation/restoration sites, including adjacent river bed elevation (where applicable), should be provided to allow for assessment of the capacity of the proposed wetland to accommodate fluctuations in size (i.e., expansion and contraction) that may result from fluctuating hydrologic conditions; (4) characterization of groundwater hydrology and quality at wetland creation/restoration sites, including temporal variations in groundwater level and relationships between river stage (where applicable) and groundwater level; (5) a presentation of soil characteristics (e.g., salinity, permeability, organic matter content) at proposed wetland creation/restoration sites; (6) a description of proposed plantings, including quantities and locations, should be presented along with the proposed sources of the plants or plant propagules; (7) a monitoring and maintenance program, which includes consideration of trash removal, human-use monitoring and control, and vegetation management to maintain the stated wetland function and value goals.

This information should be used as the basis for wetland mitigation design. It will also enable reviewing agencies to adequately evaluate the mitigation plan.

10.14.4.2.11 Boulders and Rootwads

Boulders and rootwads dislodged during project activities should be placed within the stream to provide fish habitat. This activity should be planned and coordinated with the NMDGF and other natural resource agencies to maximize effectiveness and prevent detrimental impacts, such as accelerated bank erosion and channel destabilization.

10.14.4.2.12 In-stream Equipment

In-stream equipment activity is to be minimized, with no refueling, maintenance, or cleaning of equipment (e.g., cement trucks) in or near the watercourse. All construction equipment shall be inspected daily to ensure that leaks or discharges of lubricants, fuels, or hydraulic fluids do not occur. All fuels, lubricants, and hydraulic fluids must be stored and dispensed at least 200 feet away from the stream bank or outside of the 100-year floodplain. Any poured concrete shall be contained in forms and uncured concrete shall be prevented from being introduced into surface waters. The NMDGF must be notified in the event of any spills of toxic material into the stream or if sediments above State Water Quality Standards levels are introduced into the stream.

When in-stream equipment activity cannot be avoided, it is recommended this activity take place during low flow in the fall and winter months. This is generally when the least amount of biological damage to the system will be incurred. However, scheduling may be affected by the presence of spawning fish or wintering wildlife (e.g., bald eagles, waterfowl, wading, and shorebirds) or site-specific environmental constraints. The NMDGF should be contacted for recommendations under these circumstances.

10.14.4.2.13 Disturbance to Stream Substrate

Minimize disturbance of stream substrate to only that necessary for placing abutments or pilings. To preserve channel equilibrium and stability, stream channels should not be realigned, constricted, widened, changed in bed elevation, or otherwise altered.

10.14.4.2.14 Cofferdams

Cofferdams should be constructed of material that cannot be brought into suspension by flowing water (e.g., water bag barriers, concrete highway dividers). All in-stream work should be conducted "in the dry."

10.14.4.2.15 Use of Gravel

Gravel for surfacing, riprap, and other bank stabilizing materials, including all temporary and permanent structures placed into the watercourse, must be free of fines and chemical contaminants.

10.14.4.2.16 Catchment Devices

Tarpaulins or other catchment devices should be slung under the bridge in order to prevent debris, wastes, and toxic compounds from entering the stream. The New Mexico Environment Department must be notified for disposal of any toxic compounds.

10.14.4.2.17 Sandblasting

Sandblasting operations should include vacuum systems, or the bridge should be completely "bagged" to ensure collection of all lead paint and concrete debris.

10.15 PLANTS AND WILDLIFE

Biological surveys of the WSTF site observed four species of special concern. In addition, a discussion of one species (Northern Aplomado Falcon) is included that was not observed. It is recommended that consideration of all of these taxa be made in any future management plan. Recommendations for mitigation of environmental effects and management of these protected species are discussed below.

10.15.1 Night-blooming Cereus

Night-blooming Cereus is an extremely rare species in the southwestern United States. Few populations have been observed in the wild. Moreover, this species is highly sought after for commercial and personal use. A very small population ($n = 2$ individuals) was discovered in Section 26 adjacent (15 m) to the eastern boundary of the Landfill, and within about 0.3 m (1ft) of an existing dirt road. One individual is in danger of being crushed from vehicular traffic,

which has been subsequently blocked, used in maintenance of the road and near by powerline. In fact, this particular plant exhibits scaring characteristic of previous encounters with vehicles. WSTF management has blocked traffic away from this area since the discovery of the first individual. The other individual was discovered in the spring 1996 survey. It is approximately 300 m (1,000 ft.) north from the first individual parallel with the powerline. This individual is safe from most unnatural disturbances, such as traffic or road maintenance activities. Because of the rarity of these species, it is recommended that WSTF continue to restrict access to this area. However, in the event that construction or testing must occur near by, it is suggested that this individual be transplanted to a alternate site with a similar microhabitat, after consultation with the appropriate State of New Mexico resource agency.

10.15.2 Koch's Land Snail (*Ashmunella kochi kochi*)

Koch's land snail inhabits higher, more mesic, elevations within the piñon-juniper woodland macrohabitat. Dominant topography consists of rock seams in steep canyons and cliffs associated with mesic vegetation and abundant shade. Because this species is an excellent indicator of biodiversity and quality of natural habitat, it is recommended that these populations be monitored on a yearly basis. Because of the isolated nature of these populations, it not anticipated that future development in areas of critical habitat will occur. A primary concern would be construction of an access road or facilities on top of Quartzite Mountain that would result in rock-roll and deposition of earth and construction material over the edge and down slope into areas inhabited by snails.

10.15.3 Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*)

The Texas horned lizard is a diurnal species that inhabits arid and semi-arid open country with sparse plant growth of grass, cactus, juniper, acacia, and mesquite. *P. cornutum* prefers areas with some loose soil; therefore, soil compaction should be avoided in all areas known to provide habitat for this species. In addition, construction activities in areas where Texas horned lizards have been observed should be avoided during the egg laying and hatching periods of April to July. Although some individuals of this species potentially would be impacted by construction

activities (physical and noise) associated with any proposed Action, such activities would not result in a trend to Federal listing or loss of viability.

Although elimination of all potential adverse impacts to horned lizards is difficult because they live in underground burrows, several measures can be enacted to reduce the number of horned lizards lost due to testing and construction activities. Testing and construction activities where horned lizards are known to occur should be avoided, if possible, during the egg laying and hatching period from April to July. This would allow young lizards time to hatch and disperse throughout the local area.

10.15.4 Northern Aplomado Falcon (*Falcon femoralis septentrionalis*)

Although the northern *F. f. septentrionalis* is not known to nest on WSTF, recent sightings suggest that this species may be expanding its range into southern New Mexico (USFWS pers. comm. 1995). The area along the western base of the foothills of Quartzite Mountain at the eastern corner of the WSTF property is considered potential "critical habitat" for the Northern Aplomado Falcon, particularly in areas dominated by mesquite and yucca. The Environmental Services Branch of the USFWS is currently updating the recommended survey methodology for *F. f. septentrionalis* in New Mexico (Leal et al. 1996). This document should be consulted if surveys by the contractor are requested. Otherwise, surveys should be performed by a qualified biologist.

10.15.5 Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Although this taxon is a Federal Candidate species, its status is classified as unknown (U), indicating that additional survey work is required to determine its current distribution, abundance, population trends, and ultimate listing. This species inhabits open spaces, grasslands, deserts, woodlands, and riparian areas. Individual birds and pairs of birds commonly are observed perching from fences that overlook grassland and sagebrush habitat and from taller shrubs (mesquite, saltbush) that occur along roadways.

The biological surveys of the WSTF facility recorded numerous individuals of this species in shrubland and mesquite sand dune habitat throughout the study area. However, because most

projects are temporary and do not adversely affect or reduce feeding or nesting habitat, no significant impact is expected for this species from most proposed actions. However, because of the general lack of quantitative information on the species, nests and characteristic habitat for *L. ludovicianus* should be avoided during all phases of any construction activity, particularly during the nesting season.

10.16 Species/Biological Diversity

Topographic heterogeneity and species diversity of plant and animals surrounding the Love Ranch and lower Bear Canyon areas represent the most unique and relatively undisturbed natural habitat found on the WSTF property. Bear Canyon encompasses a unique local composite of both mesic and xeric habitats found within the San Andres Mountains. Several biotic communities that contribute to the overall uniqueness of the San Andres Mountains are restricted to this area, including land snails and numerous species of cacti.

As stewards of the land it is recommended that this area be protected from short and long term disturbance. If disturbance is unavoidable, users should be specifically briefed by a qualified staff biologist/environmental scientist as to the location of sensitive species any managed biological areas/resources. Specific areas of potential disturbance should be surveyed during the spring, summer, and fall flowering, breeding, and migratory seasons for plants and birds. Many plant and avian species have seasonally restricted reproductive periods. Disturbance during this time may adversely affect the ability to detect the presence of a species of special concern, or terminate the reproductive cycle (i.e., abandon a nest).

Application of the above biological and ecological mitigation recommendations should reduce to insignificance the potential impacts to all plant and animal species, and to any Threatened and Endangered taxon that might be found in the project area in the future.

11 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

- Qualified members of the environmental staff should conduct a pre-site survey to identify existing site conditions prior to initiation of testing and construction activities. These surveys will serve as a benchmarks for restoration of any areas disturbed by construction activities to as near its original condition as possible. In addition, it is recommended that photographic points be established throughout the area. Each point should include as many features of the landscape as possible, including close photo-documentation, aerial photographs, and photographs of disturbed and undisturbed areas. Photographs taken once every 1-3 years is recommended. These photographs become a source of baseline information, and can be used to detect trends that may not be readily apparent to the casual observer.
- Once operations within a particular project area are completed, or when project needs for a particular area have been terminated, all disturbed areas that are no longer required for testing/operations should be immediately returned to its original native condition. This may include immediately seeding and revegetating with native vegetation, and recontouring the land to predisturbance topographic relief.
- Any native landscape features scarred or damaged by construction equipment or maintenance operations should be restored, as nearly as possible, to its original condition pursuant to WSTF's resource management plan. This also may include immediately seeding and revegetating with native vegetation, and recontouring the land to predisturbance topographic relief.
- Recontouring and reseeding of sites is recommended as part of any site abandonment. A 1:1 in-kind replacement of acreage through re-vegetation should take place when projects result in a loss of grassland-shrub species, particularly in grassland-juniper and arroyo vegetation zones. Further, species of plants (grass and shrubs) should be seeded/planted from genetic stocks endemic to the local area.
- Regarding temporary site facilities, the contractor should be required to obliterate all signs of temporary construction facilities. In addition, the contractor should take all reasonable steps to restore areas occupied by temporary construction facilities to near natural conditions.

- All hazardous materials and excess concrete should be removed from the construction site and properly disposed of. All metal, man-made materials, building debris, and trash that has accumulated in the project area should be collected and recycled, or disposed of in accordance with the WSTF recycling plans. A grass/shrub seed mixture for the WSTF site is indicated below.

Table 1. Grass/shrub Seed Mixture Recommended for Potential Trenching and Fiber Optic Cable Feeder Lines

Common Name	Species Name	Minimum Standards			
		Lbs/Acre	Purity %	Germination %	Pure Live Seed %
Alkali Sacaton	<i>Sporobulus airoides</i>	3 lbs/acre	85%	80%	75%
Giant Dropseed	<i>Sporobulus giganteus</i>	2 lbs/acre	85%	80%	75%
Indian Rice Grass	<i>Oryzopsis humenoides</i>	3 lbs/acre	90%	90%	80%
Blue Grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	3 lbs/acre	95%	90%	95%
Little Bluestem/New Mexico Blue Stem	<i>Andropogon scoparius</i> var. <i>neomexicanus</i>	2 lbs/acre	95%	90%	95%
Four-wing Saltbush	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	2 dewinged or 4 winged lbs/acre	—	75%	75%

Note: Total mixture is about 15 lbs/acre. Mixture can be drilled (1/4" depth) or broadcast by individuals with experience in seeding projects. If using a drill, one may need to use a seed box because of the fine seeds of Alkali Sacaton. Because it is not a pure sacaton mixture, the bulk of the other seed sizes may prevent sacaton seeds from setting to the bottom or running out too rapidly from the seed box. Seed source should be from stock as locally adapted as possible. Seed must be able to grow in this environment (i.e., seeds from other parts of the West may be better adapted to higher rainfall amounts or warm winter temperatures).

- The open air sewage treatment lagoons are being used by a high diversity of wildlife species. During the biological survey WSTF management expressed concern that biological survey team stay away from the lagoons, due to safety concerns. However, if these areas are considered hazardous to humans, then they also are likely to be unsafe for numerous species (and hundreds of individual) of animals that drink and forage in the effluent.

Although not planned for such purposes, construction of sewage-treatment plants often creates wildlife habitat for a number of aquatic species. For water fowl and shorebirds, lagoons are unusual habitat because the water is often deep and the edges lack emergent vegetation and in fact, may be covered with rock, rubber, or other hard-surfaced materials (Swanson 1977). Instead, the attractive component seems to be the abundance of invertebrate food supplies available in nutrient-enriched ponds, and in arid environments abundant free water. Uhler (1956, 1964) perhaps was the first to describe waterfowl use and production on sewage lagoons, underscoring the abundance there of midge larvae and other invertebrates—more so than in natural wetlands. Midges are particularly well-known sources of protein required by nesting hens and ducklings; McKnight and Low 1969), and in sewage-treatment lagoons in Missouri, there numbers—sometimes exceeding 16 per cm²—made up more than 94 percent of the total insect population (Kimerle and Enns 1968). Maxson (1981) recorded waterfowl use of a sewage lagoon in North Dakota and noted that this habitat served migrating and premolting birds as well as those raising broods. More than 60 waterfowl broods were recorded on the 263-ha lagoon each year—one brood per 183 m of shoreline.

However, sewage environments may promote avian diseases feather-wetting from detergent accumulations (Choules et al. 1978), or poisoning from Blue-green algal toxins (Olson 1964). Therefore, within the confines of their primary purpose, sewage lagoons may pose a variety of management concerns for wildlife resources on WSMR. These concerns need to be identified and evaluated relative to the overall affect of sewage lagoons on survival and reproduction of local and migratory wildlife.

Therefore, it is recommended that measures be taken to insure that these lagoons are safe for animals to use, both as a free water source and as a foraging area. This can be done by using permaculture techniques and converting ponds into natural wetlands.

- The NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) Facilities Master Plan (FMP) expresses a concern for fostering a stewardship management and conservation of natural resources and natural landscaping. The WSTF policy is to employ corrective or safeguard measures that minimize the evidence of human activities on the natural environment.

A prerequisite for reaching this goal is to maintain natural floristic and faunistic densities and species compositions at levels prior to the onset of any proposed testing or construction activities—where ever and when ever possible. For example, where dense populations of cacti occur in an area scheduled for disturbance, transplanting these cacti would foster a stewardship management practice consistent with the FMP, even in situations where a no action management approach may be taken without legal consequences. This kind of proactive approach to resource management issues also would be politically popular. In addition, continued natural landscaping around facilities also is a positive strategy for minimizing impact and alteration of the natural arid-land ecosystem found at the WSTF site, and should be encouraged.

12 ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

12.1 NESTING RAPTOR SURVEY

A spring follow-up raptor survey should be conducted throughout all low lying habitat to determine the percent use and fledgling success rate of desert-scrub habitat by raptors on all low-lying WSTF property. The significance of the WSTF property as a nesting area and breeding area for local and migratory raptors is extremely important indicator of local biodiversity and ecosystem health.

12.2 NEOTROPICAL AND MIGRATORY BIRD SURVEYS

The Rio Grande Valley is a major thoroughfare for the migrating birds through New Mexico. Various species migrate along this corridor to feeding grounds in the south and nesting areas in the north. Therefore, a survey for avian species during at least one of these seasons (usually spring or fall) is recommended. Sampling techniques such as mist netting would provide an accurate assessment of species composition in the local WSTF area.

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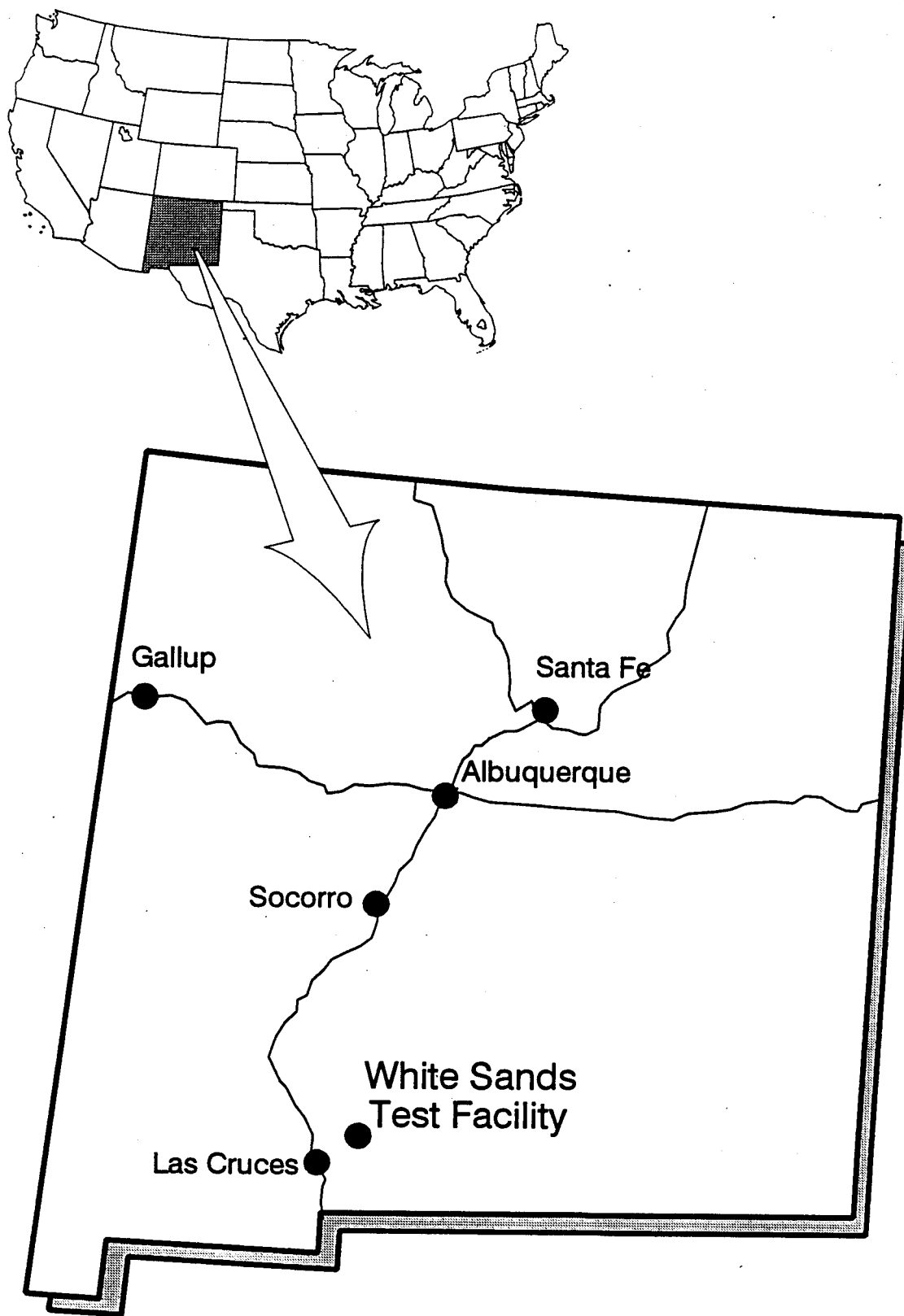


Figure 1. General Location of the White Sands Test Facility

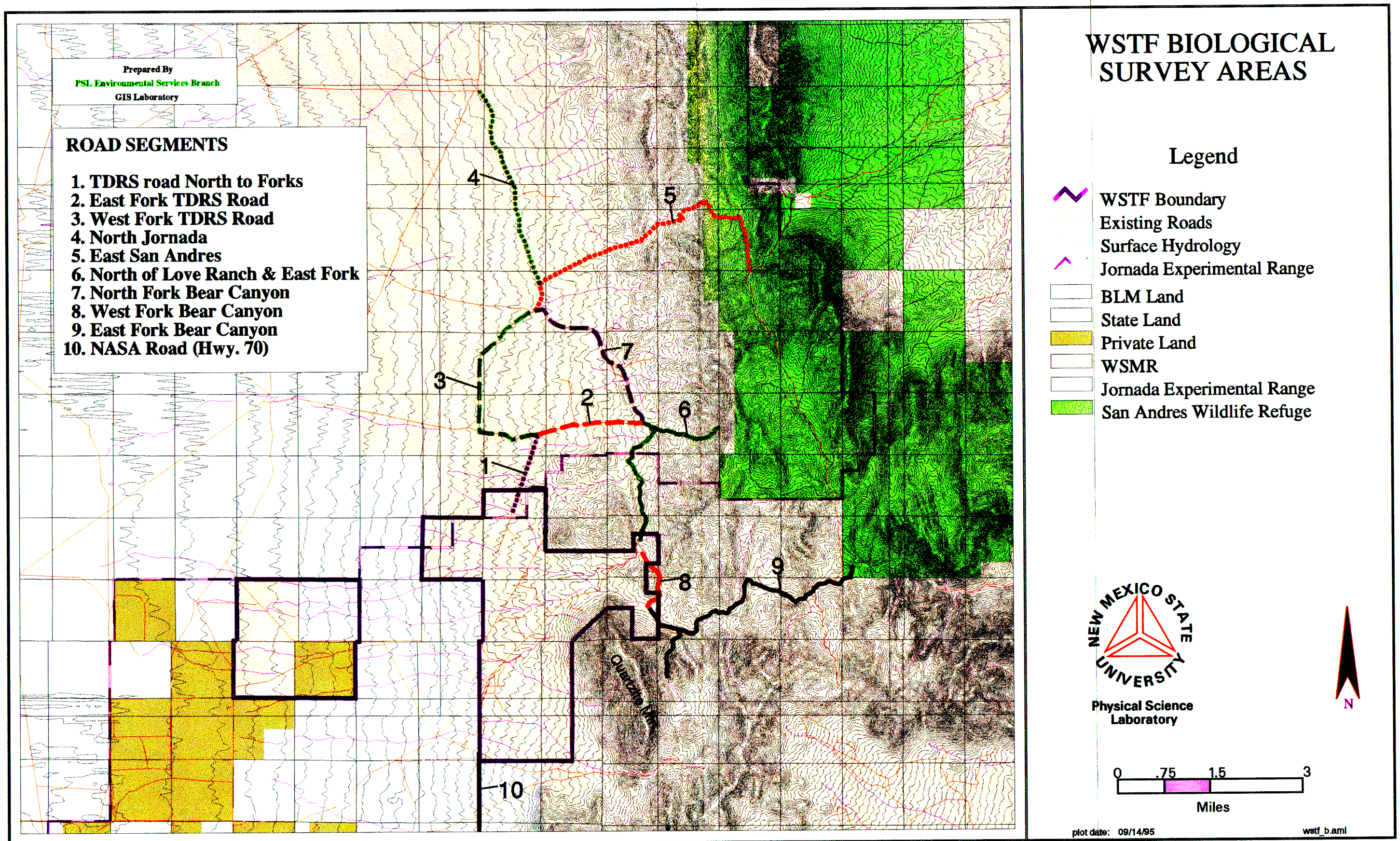


Figure 2. General locations of the White Sands Test Facility Study Area and associated roadways.

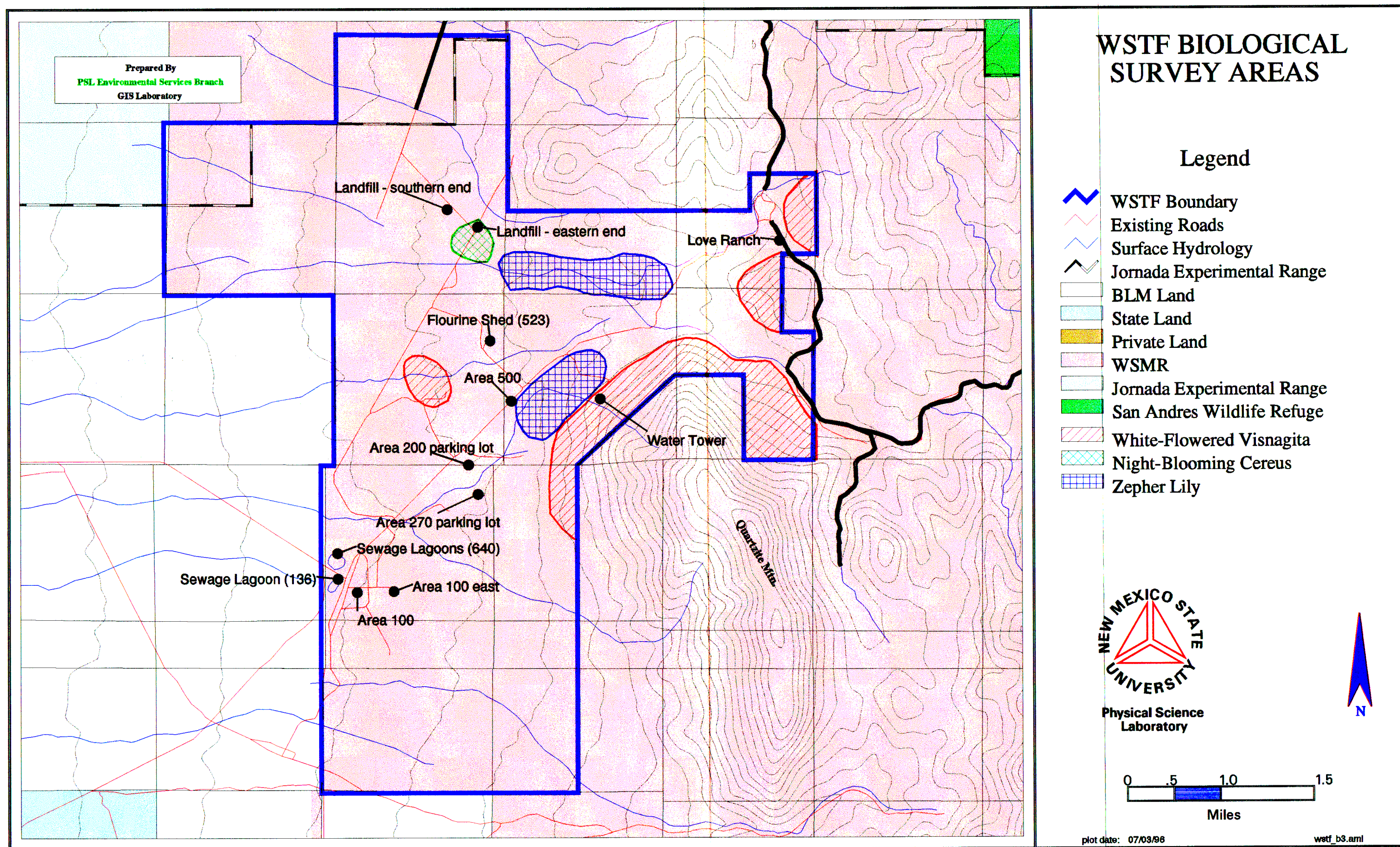


Figure 3. Distribution of Listed Species of Plants.

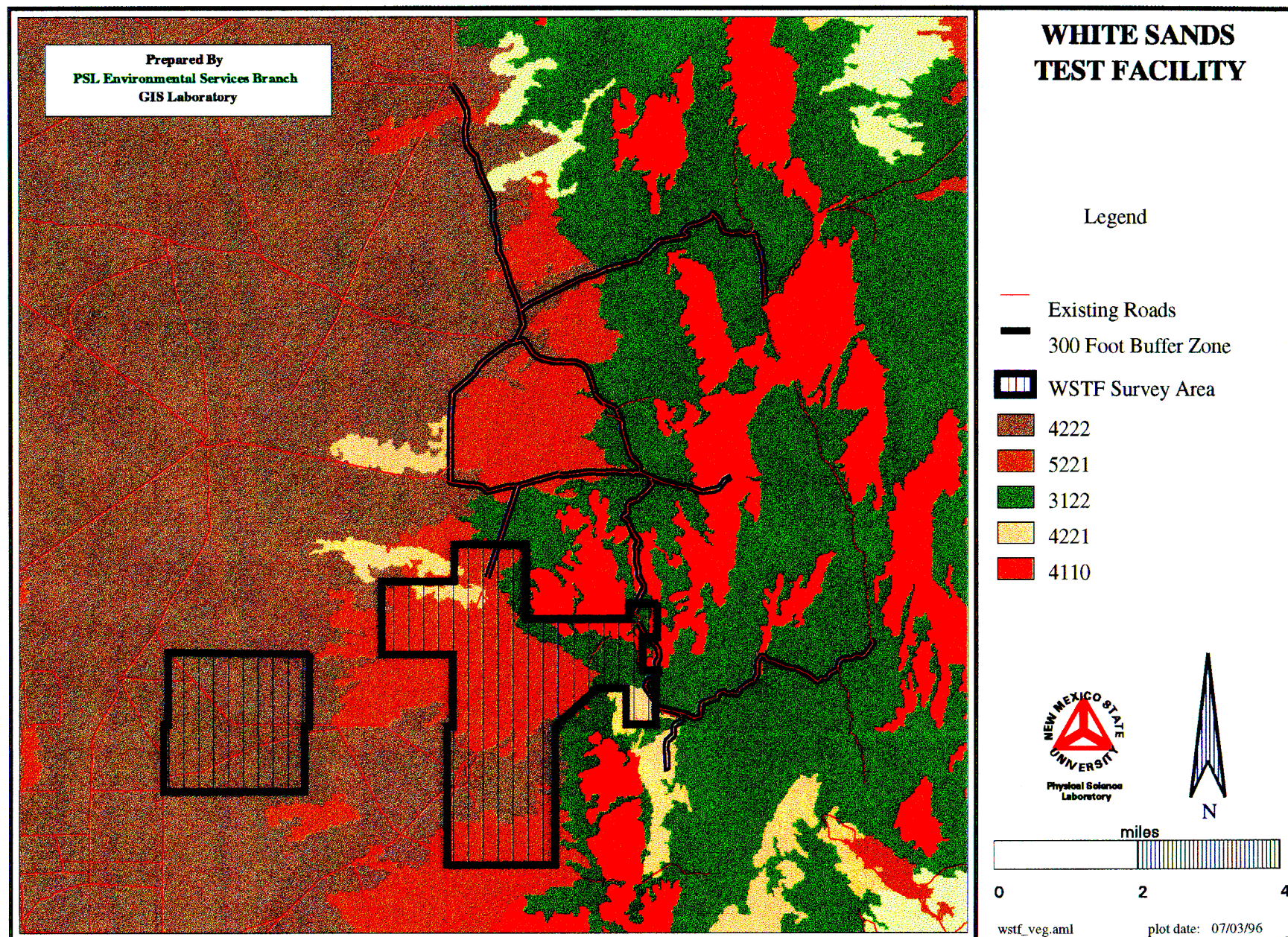


Figure 4. Major Vegetation Communities Found Within the WSTF Boundaries and Fire Roadways

APPENDICES

Appendix A. List of plant species of special concern potentially found at WSTF, Doña Ana County, New Mexico. State of New Mexico and Federal criteria for listing are provided in Appendix C. [CHIHUAHUA DESERT SCRUB: Hot, dry plains with widely scattered shrubs typically Cresote bush, Tarbush, Mesquite, Acacia, Yucca and warm seasoned grasses at about 5,500 ft elevation. INTERIOR CHAPARRAL: Relatively dense shrub associated on desert mountain slopes including live Oak, Manzanita, Mountain Mahogany, Silktassel, Sotol, and Catclaw. MADREAN EVERGREEN WOODLAND: A mild winter-wet summer woodland of Mexican Oaks and Pines. PLAINS & GREAT BASIN GRASSLANDS: Mostly short-grass plains of Grama, Wheatgrass, Three-awn, Muhly, and Buffalograss. GREAT BASIN CONIFER WOODLAND: Cold adapted evergreen woodland at intermediate elevations, below 7,500 ft. Includes mostly piñon-juniper. ROCKY MOUNTAIN MONTANE CONIFER FOREST: Mountain forests represent Merriam's Transitional Zone (ponderosa pine) and Canadian Zone (Douglas fir-white fir). Gamble oak and New Mexico locust are also important. Elevation ranges around 7,500 to 10,000 ft. SUBALPINE GRASSLAND: Cold, high elevation (7,500 to 12,000 ft) grasslands that occupy valleys, slopes and ridges within montane and subalpine conifer forests. SEMIDESERT GRASSLANDS: Hot, dry plains of warm season grasses such as black Grama, Dropseed, Tobosa, and burro grass, mesquite and Soap tree yucca. (Sivinski and Lightfoot, 1994 and 1995)]

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	State Index	Status		Distribution outside NM	Habitat Type	Remarks
				NM	Federal			
Amarillidaceae	<i>Zephryanthes longifolia</i>	Zephry Lily	None	L4	None	Arizona, Texas, Mexico	Chihuahuan desert scrub, Great basin conifer woodland, Interior chaparral	Not Listed as a protected species, too common.
Asteraceae	<i>Brickellia lemmonii</i> var. <i>wootonii</i>	Wooton's Brickle bush	?-?-?	L3	None	Mexico	Interior chaparral	More Information needed on distribution
Asteraceae	<i>Hymenoxya quinquesquamata</i>	Five Scale Bitterweed	1-1-2	L2	None	Arizona	Great basin conifer woodland	None
Asteraceae	<i>Hymenoxys vasseyi</i>	Vassey's Bitterweed	3-1-3	L2	None	Arizona, Texas	Great basin conifer woodland, Interior chaparral	None
Asteraceae	<i>Perityle cernua</i>	Nodding Cliff Daisy	2-1-3	L2	C	Endemic	Interior chaparral, igneous cliffs	Narrow endemic of the Organ Mts.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	State Index	Status		Distribution outside NM	Habitat Type	Remarks
				NM	Federal			
Brassicaceae	<i>Draba standleyi</i>	Standley's Whitlow Grass	2-1-2	L2	C	Arizona, Texas, Mexico	Interior chaparral, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Conifer Forest, cliffs & crevices	Presently known only from the Organ Mts, Davis Mts (Tx), Chiricahua Mts (Az).
Cactaceae	<i>Coryphantha scheeri</i> var. <i>uncinata</i>	Scheer's Pincushion Cactus	2-2-2	L1	None	Arizona, Texas, Mexico	Chihuahuan desert scrub, Semidesert Grassland	Most common SHeer's cactus in NM
Cactaceae	<i>Coryphantha scheeri</i> var. <i>valida</i>	Scheer's Pincushion Cactus	1-2-1	L4	None	Texas, Mexico	Chihuahuan desert scrub	Barely enters NM, along the Rio Grande Valley along the TX border
Cactaceae	<i>Epithelantha micromeris</i>	Button Cactus	1-2-1	L4	None	Arizona, Texas, Mexico	Chihuahuan desert scrub, Semidesert Grassland, Interior chaparral, limestone	None
Cactaceae	<i>Escobaria orcuttii</i>	Orcutt's Pincushion Cactus	1-2-2	L3	None	Arizona, Mexico	Chihuahuan desert scrub, Interior chaparral	None
Cactaceae	<i>Escobaria organensis</i>	Organ Mt. Pincushion Cactus	1-2-3	L1B	None	Endemic	Great basin conifer woodland, Interior chaparral	None
Cactaceae	<i>Escobaria sandbergii</i>	Sandberg's Pincushion Cactus	2-2-3	L2	None	Texas, Mexico	Chihuahuan desert scrub, Interior chaparral, Great basin conifer woodland, limestone	Known only from the southern end of the San Andres Mts.
Cactaceae	<i>Esobaria sneedii</i> var. <i>sneedii</i>	Sneed's Pincushion Cactus	2-2-2	L1	LE	Texas	Interior chaparral, limestone	Occasionally common within habitat

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	State Index	Status		Distribution outside NM	Habitat Type	Remarks
				NM	Federal			
Cactaceae	<i>Mammillaria wrightii</i> <i>var. wrightii</i>	Wright's Pincushion Cactus	1-2-2	L4	None	Arizona, Texas	Great basin conifer woodland, Plains & great basin grasslands, Semidesert Grassland	Proposed for delisting
Cactaceae	<i>Neolloydia intertexta</i> <i>var. dasyacantha</i>	White-flowered Visnagita	1-1-1	L4	None	Texas, Mexico	Semidesert Grassland, Chihuahuan desert scrub	Proposed for delisting
Cactaceae	<i>Neolloydia intertexta</i> <i>var. intertexta</i>	Early Bloomer	1-1-1	L4	None	Arizona, Texas, Mexico	Semidesert Grassland, Chihuahuan desert scrub	Proposed for delisting
Cactaceae	<i>Opuntia arenaria</i>	Sand Prickly Pear	2-2-2	L1B	C	Texas, Mexico	Semidesert Grassland, sand	Narrow distribution along the Rio Grande
Cactaceae	<i>Opuntia wootonii</i>	Wooton's Prickly Pear	?-?-3	L3	None		Semidesert Grassland, Chihuahuan desert scrub	Not a well understood species
Cactaceae	<i>Pediocactus papyracanthus</i>	Grama Grass Cactus	1-2-2	L4	C	Arizona, Texas	Semidesert Grassland, Great basin conifer woodland, Plains & great basin grasslands, sandy or gypseous soil	Very cryptic
Cactaceae	<i>Peniocereus greggii</i> <i>var. greggii</i>	Night-blooming Cereus	1-3-1	L1C	C	Texas, Mexico	Chihuahuan desert scrub	Many historical populations have been extirpated

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	State Index	Status		Distribution outside NM	Habitat Type	Remarks
				NM	Federal			
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Silene planki</i>	Plank's cactshfly	1-1-2	L2	C	Texas	Semidesert Grassland, P&GBrl, wetlands, wet meadows	None
Cucurbitaceae	<i>Sicyos glaber</i>	Smooth Cucumber	1-1-2	L2	None	Texas	Semidesert Grassland, Plains & great basin grasslands, Riparian, wetlands, alkaline soils	None
Dryopteridaceae	<i>Phanerophlebia auriculata</i>	Mexican Ear Fern	?-1-1	L3	None	Arizona, Texas, Mexico	Great basin conifer woodland, Interior chaparral, cliffs, crevices	Very Rare in NM & Tx
Fabaceae	<i>Astragalus castetteri</i>	Castetter's milkvetch	1-1-3	L2	C		Interior chaparral, Great basin conifer woodland, limestone	Occasionally common within its range
Gentianaceae	<i>Eustoma exaltatum</i>	Catchfly gentian	1-2-1	L2	None	Florida, California, Mexico to Belize	Semidesert Grassland, Plains & great basin grasslands, wetlands, wet meadows	None
Gentianaceae	<i>Eustoma russellianum</i>	Prairie gentian	1-2-2	L2	None	Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Mexico	Semidesert Grassland, Plains & great basin grasslands, riparian, wetlands, alkaline soils	None
Lamiaceae	<i>Agastache pringlei</i> var. <i>verticillata</i>	Whorled Giant Hyssop	?-?-3	L2	None		Interior chaparral	Information needed

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	State Index	Status		Distribution outside NM	Habitat Type	Remarks
				NM	Federal			
Lamiaceae	<i>Agastache cana</i>	Mosquito Plant	1-1-2	L2	None	Texas	Great basin conifer woodland	Recorded from the headwaters of the Pecos
Malvaceae	<i>Sphaeralcea wrightii</i>	Wright's Globemallow	?-1-?	L3	None	Mexico	Chihuahuan desert scrub	Information needed
Onagraceae	<i>Oenothera organensis</i>	Organ Mt. Evening Primrose	2-2-3	L2	C	Endemic	Madrean evergreen woodland, riparian	Endemic to Organ Mts
Polygalaceae	<i>Polygala rimulicola</i> var. <i>mescalerorum</i>	Mescalero milkwort	3-3-3	L1B	C	Endemic	Interior chaparral, limestone cliffs	Endemic to WSMR, San Andres Mts. Known from 173 individuals
Portulacaceae	<i>Talinum longipipes</i>	Long-Stemmed Flame Flower	1-1-3	L2	C		Chihuahuan desert scrub, limestone	None
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Castilleja organorum</i>	Organ Mt. Paintbrush	1-1-3	L3	None		Great basin conifer woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Conifer Forest	None
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Penstemon ramosus</i>	Branching Penstemon	2-1-2	L2	None	Arizona	Interior chaparral	None
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Scrophulariaceae</i>	Smooth Figwort	1-2-2	L2	C		Great basin conifer woodland, Rocky Mountain Subalpine Conifer Forest, moist canyons	Endemic to the Organ Mta. Flowers mostly red, but may vary with amounts of green
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Penstemon alamosensis</i>	Alamo Beardtongue	2-1-2	L2	C		Interior chaparral, Great basin conifer woodland, limestone slopes, cliffs	Numerous plants in the San Andres Mts on WSMR

Appendix B. List of animal species of special concern potentially found in the vicinity of WSTF, Doña Ana County, New Mexico. Federal and State of New Mexico criteria for Endangered, threatened, and sensitive species are listed in Appendix C.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	
			NM	Federal
GASTROPODS				
Polygyridae	<i>Ashmunella koci kochi</i>	Koch's Land Snail	S	n/a
REPTILES				
Helodermatidae	<i>Heloderma suspectum</i>	Gila Monster	1	n/a
BIRDS				
Accipitridae	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>	Common Black Hawk	2	n/a
Accipitridae	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon	1	Endangered
Accipitridae	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	2	Endangered
Accipitridae	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	Mississippi Kite	2	n/a
Caprimulgidae	<i>Caprimulgus ridgwayi</i>	Buff-Collared Nightjar	1	n/a
Columbidae	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	Common Ground-Dove	1	n/a
Emberizinae	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i>	Baird's Sparrow	2	n/a
Emberizinae	<i>Passeria versicolor</i>	Varied Bunting	2	n/a
Falconidae	<i>Falco femoralis septentrionalis</i>	Northern Aplomado Falcon	1	Endangered
Falconidae	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	American Peregrine Falcon	1	Endangered
Gruidae	<i>Grus americana</i>	Whooping Crane	2	Endangered
Lanidae	<i>Lanus ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike	S	Candidate
Laridae	<i>Sterna antillarum athalassos</i>	Interior Least Tern	1	Endangered
Phalacrocoracidae	<i>Phalacrocorax olivaceus</i>	Olivaceous Cormorant	2	n/a
Strigidae	<i>Speotyto cunicularia hypugea</i>	Western Burrowing Owl	n/a	Candidate
Strigidae	<i>Strix occidentalis lucida</i>	Mexican Spotted Owl	2	n/a
Trochilidae	<i>Calypte costae</i>	Costa's Hummingbird	2	n/a
Trochilidae	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>	Broad-Billed Hummingbird	2	n/a
Tyrannidae	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	2	Endangered
Vireonidae	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	Gray Vireo	2	n/a

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	
			NM	Federal
Vireonidae	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	Bell's Vireo	2	n/a
REPTILES				
Iguanidae	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	Texas Horned Lizard	S	Candidate
MAMMALS				
Bovidae	<i>Ovis canadensis</i>	Bighorn Sheep	1	n/a
Geomyidae	<i>Geomys arenarius</i>	Desert Pocket Gopher	n/a	Candidate
Geomyidae	<i>Thomomys umbrinus emotus</i>	Southern Pocket Gopher	2	n/a
Molossidae	<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	Greater Western Mastiff Bat	S	Candidate
Molossidae	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	Small-footed Myotis	n/a	Candidate
Molossidae	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Fringed Myotis	n/a	Candidate
Molossidae	<i>Myotis volans</i>	Long-legged Myotis	n/a	Candidate
Molossidae	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Yuma Myotis	n/a	Candidate
Molossidae	<i>Nyctinomops/Tadarida macrotis</i>	Big Free-tailed Bat	n/a	Candidate
Cricetidae	<i>Neotoma micropus leucophaeus</i>	White Sands Woodrat	S	Candidate
Mustelidae	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	Black-footed Ferret	1	Endangered
Sciuridae	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus arizonensis</i>	Arizona Black-tailed Prairie Dog	S	Candidate
Sciuridae	<i>Tamias quadrivittatus australis</i>	Colorado Chipmunk	2	n/a
Vespertilionidae	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Spotted Bat	2	Endangered
Vespertilionidae	<i>Plecotus townsendii pallescens</i>	Pale Townsend's Big-Eared Bat	n/a	Candidate
* New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, <i>Handbook of Species Endangered in New Mexico</i> .				

Appendix C. Federal and State of New Mexico criteria for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species of plants and animals. Currently, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive of plants and animals in New Mexico are classified within various jurisdictional frameworks, including the USFWS Endangered Species Act, New Mexico Endangered Plant Species Act, and the USFS Sensitive Species list. Each agency maintains its own list that it considers important for protection or review. Each list has categories distinct from one another. The following is a brief discussion of these categories as they relate to both plant and animal species of special concern that potentially could be in the biological survey area (Sivinski and Lightfoot, 1995).

FEDERAL STATUS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife List:

The USFWS maintains lists for species that it considers Endangered, Threatened, proposed endangered, proposed threatened, Candidate, 3A, 3B and 3C. Species potentially occurring in the biological survey area are Category C2 and 3C; legal designations are as follows:

LE: Listed as Endangered by the USFWS under the ESA

LT: Listed as Threatened by the USFWS under the ESA

PE: Proposed by the USFWS to be listed as endangered under the ESA

PT: Proposed by the USFWS to be listed as threatened under the ESA

Candidate (C1).—Category 1 candidates are species for which there is enough substantial information on biologic vulnerability and threats(s) to support proposals to list them as endangered or threatened.

Category 2 Candidate (C2).—Category 2 candidates are species for which additional information is needed to support a proposal to list as threatened or endangered.

Note: These species receive no protection under the ESA unless they become listed as threatened or endangered.

Category 3 Species.—Category 3 taxa are those species that were once considered for listing as endangered or threatened, but are not currently receiving such consideration. These taxa include the 3A, 3B and 3C designations.

Category 3A Species.—Category 3A designation comprises taxa for which the USFWS has persuasive evidence of extinction. If rediscovered, however, such taxa might warrant high priority for additions to the Endangered Species List.

Category 3B Species.—Category 3B designation comprises names that on the basis of current taxonomic understanding, usually as represented in published revisions and monograph do not represent taxa meeting the legal definition of a species as defined in the ESA.

Category 3C Species.—Category 3C designation is applied to those taxa that have proven to be more abundant or widespread than previously believed and have no identifiable threats.

FFS.—U.S. Forest Service Sensitive Species List (USFS). The USFS sensitive rare plant species are those considered sensitive to land use practices within each specific National Forest. Potential impacts to these species on USFS

land are regulated by USFS management policies. Collection of these species requires a permit issued by the USFS. Lists are specific to each National Forest.

NEW MEXICO STATUS

State of New Mexico Plant Lists:

The New Mexico Forestry and Resources Conservation Division, Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (NMFD) maintains four lists in an effort to categorize degrees of concern. There is a potential that New Mexico endangered and sensitive plants could occur within the biological survey area.¹ Legal designations are:

List 1. Plant Species Endangered in New Mexico

- L1A The taxon is listed as threatened or endangered under the provisions of the ESA (16 U.S.C. Sections 1531 et seq.); or
- L1B The taxon is so rare across its entire range and of such limited distribution and population size that unregulated collection could jeopardize its survival in New Mexico; or
- L1C The taxon may be widespread in adjacent states or Mexico, but its numbers are being significantly reduced to such a degree that within the foreseeable future the survival of the taxon within New Mexico is jeopardized.

List 2. New Mexico Rare and Sensitive Plant Species

This list contains taxa that are considered to be rare because of restricted distribution or low numerical density. They need not be endemic to New Mexico, but must be regionally endemic or rare throughout their range. Since they are rare, these species are sensitive to long-term or cumulative land use impacts and are vulnerable to biological or climatic events that could eventually threaten them with extinction or extirpation. List 2 is monitored by the State of New Mexico to determine if they should ever be elevated to List 1—they are not protected by state statute or policy.

List 3. New Mexico Rare Plant Review List

Species on the New Mexico Rare Plant List are plants about which more information is needed. All are under consideration for Lists 1 or 2, but data are lacking to either list or reject them. Species on this list are taxonomically questionable or poorly understood as to distribution and endangerment. They are not protected by the state statute or policy. Some of these plants, however, are in need of prompt attention. Placement on the Review List should not diminish the concern for their continued survival in New Mexico.

List 4. Plant Species Considered, But Not Included

This list contains all taxa occurring on the 1985 New Mexico Heritage Program Element List that were considered, but not included on Lists 1, 2, or 3. It also contains species rejected during a 1991 interagency review and taxa originally included on Lists 2 and 3 in 1992, but were later determined to be too abundant to retain.

The R-E-D Code

¹ The 32 taxa presently on the list are protected from unauthorized collection or take under the New Mexico Endangered Plant Species Act (9-10-10 NMSA) and attendant regulation NMFRCD Rule No. 91-1. Taxa on this list are included for any one of the L1A, L1B, L1C criteria.

The R-E-D Code is used in by the State of New Mexico for developing an inventory of plants with regard to: rarity, endangerment, and distribution. Each code is divided into three classes or degrees of concern, represented by the number 1, 2, or 3. In each instance, the higher the number, the more critical the concern. This R-E-D system code is defined as follows:

R (Rarity index): (1) rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough that the potential for extinction is low; (2) occurrence confined to several populations or to one extended population; (3) occurrence limited to one or a few highly restricted populations, or present in such small numbers that it is seldom reported.

E (Endangerment index): (1) not endangered, (2) endangered in a portion of its range, (3) endangered throughout its range.

D (Distribution index): (1) more or less widespread outside New Mexico, (2) rare outside New Mexico, (3) endemic to New Mexico.

Example: The Santa Fe Milkvetch (*Astragalus feensis*) M. E. Jones—is designated by the State of New Mexico as a Rare and Sensitive Species (Code 1-1-3). For this specific code, the first digit is the Rarity index ("rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough that the potential for extinction is low for the foreseeable future"), the second digit represents Endangered index ("not endangered"), and the third digit is the Distribution index ("endemic to New Mexico").

State of New Mexico Animal Lists:

Listing of animals as Endangered by the State of New Mexico is the function of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), as approved by the State Game Commission. This authority is granted under the Wildlife Conservation Act (NMSA 17-2-37 through 17-2-46, 1978 compilation, which became effective on 1 July 1974. Under the Wildlife Conservation Act, and Endangered species is defined as one "*whose prospects of survival or recruitment within the state are in jeopardy or a likely within the foreseeable future to become so*" (Section 17-2-38). The phrase within the state means that the NMDGF must base its determination of endangerment solely on the basis of a species' status inside New Mexico, regardless of what the status might be beyond the boundaries of the state. The NMDGF has chosen to divide species into two categories, based on the two categories above (Handbook of Species Endangered in New Mexico, 1991):

Endangered (group 1): Species whose prospects of survival or recruitment within the state are in jeopardy.

Endangered (group 2): Species whose prospects of survival or recruitment within the state are likely to become jeopardized in the foreseeable future.

Appendix D-1. List of plant species observed at the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) during the biological survey. Plants were keyed out using Allred (1988), Kearney and Peebles (1951), and Weniger (1991) An X represents observed taxa, and highlighted text indicates threatened, endangered, or protected taxa.

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
Agavaceae																	
<i>Agave palmeri</i> Eng	Agave												X			X	X
<i>Dasyllirion wheeleri</i> Wats	Sotol	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X
<i>Nolina microcarpa</i> Wats	Beargrass	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X
<i>Yucca baccata</i> (Eng) Trel	Banana Yucca	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<i>Yucca elata</i> Eng	Soaptree Yucca	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Amarillidaceae																	
<i>Zephyranthes longifolia</i> Hemsl	Zephyry-lily								X								X
Anacardiaceae																	
<i>Rhus microphylla</i> Eng	Littleleaf Sumac	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Rhus trilobata</i> Nutt	Squaw Bush											X	X				
Asclepiadaceae																	
<i>Asclepias brachstephana</i> Eng	Short-crowned Milkweed													X		X	X
Asteraceae																	
<i>Aphanostephus ramosissimus</i> DC	Lazy Daisy											X	X			X	X
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i> Nutt	Louisiana White Sage	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
<i>Baileya multiradata</i> Harv & Gray	Marigold							X		X	X			X		X	X
<i>Baccharis glutinosa</i> Pers	Seep Willow			X													X
<i>Bahia oblongifolia</i> Gray	Bahi							X		X							
<i>Brickellia californica</i> (Torr & Gray) Gray	California Brickell Bush												X				
<i>Brickellia lacinata</i> Gray	Cutleaf Brickellbush	X	X	X		X	X				X		X				X
<i>Cirsium ochrocentrum</i> Gray	Yellow Spine Thistle			X												X	X
<i>Conzya couteri</i> Gray	Mare's Tail													X			X
Asteraceae																	
<i>Dyssodia acerosa</i> DC	Prickleleaf Dogwood							X		X							
<i>Erigeron bellidiastrum</i> Nutt	Western Fleabane	X	X					X		X	X	X	X			X	X
<i>Flourensia cernua</i> DC	Tarbush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Grindelia squarrosa</i> (Pursh) Dun	Curlycup Gumweed	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i> (Pursh) Britt & Rusby	Broom Snakeweed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Hymenoxys odorata</i> (DC) Kuntz	Fragrant Bitterweed																X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
<i>Machaeranthera tanacetifolia</i> (HBK) Nees	Tahoka Daisy					X	X										X
<i>Parthenium incanum</i> HBK	Mariola	X	X			X	X	X		X				X			X
<i>Perezia nana</i> Gray	Desert Holly	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Psilostrophe tagetna</i> (Nutt) Greene	Paper Flower	X	X			X	X	X		X	X		X			X	X
<i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i> (Torr) Nels	Few Flower Wire-lettuce												X				
<i>Zinnia acerosa</i> (DC) Gray	Desert Zinnia										X		X				
Berberidaceae																	
<i>Berberis haematocarpous</i> Wooton	Bayberry											X					
Bignoniaceae																	
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> (Cav) Sweet	Desert Willow					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
<i>Maurandya wislizenii</i> Eng	Net Cup Snapdragon Vine	X	X														
Boraginaceae																	
<i>Lappula redowskii</i> (Hornem) Greene	Stickseed					X	X								X	X	X
Brassicaceae																	
<i>Dithyrea wislizenii</i> Eng	Spectacle-pod					X	X	X		X	X						X
<i>Draba cuneifolia</i> Nutt	Whitlow Grass			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
<i>Lepidium montanum</i> Nutt	Pepper Grass					X	X										

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
<i>Lesquerella gordonii</i> (Gray) Wats	Bladderpod				X	X	X	X		X	X					X	X
<i>Nerisyrenia camporum</i> (Gray) Greene	Bicolored Mustard											X	X				
<i>Streptanthus arizonicus</i> Wats	Twist Flower							X		X	X						X
Cactaceae																	
<i>Coryphantha macromeris</i> (Eng) Lem	Long Mamma			X				X	X	X		X	X				X
<i>Coryphantha sulcata</i> Eng	Finger Cactus												X				
<i>Coryphantha vivipara</i> (Eng) L. Benson	Ball Cactus	X	X												X		
<i>Echinocereus chloranthus</i> (Eng) Ruml	Green Flowered Torch Cactus	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
<i>Echinocereus fendleri</i> Eng	Strawberry Cactus	X	X	X				X		X		X				X	X
<i>Echinocactus horzonthalonius</i> Lem	Turk's Head	X	X			X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X	X
<i>Echinocereus triglochidiatus</i> Eng	Claret cup Cactus	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
<i>Echinocactus uncinatus</i> var. <i>wrightii</i> Eng	Brown Flowered Hedgehog								X								
<i>Echinocereus viridiflorus</i> Eng	Spiny Wax Candle Cactus	X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X
<i>Ferocactus wislizenii</i> (Eng) Britt & Rose	Barrel Cactus	X	X			X	X	X		X		X					X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
<i>Mammillaria microcarpa</i> Eng	Pincushion Cactus	X	X														
<i>Mammillaria tuberculosa</i> Eng	Tube Cactus												X				X
<i>Neolloydia intertexta</i> var. <i>dasyacantha</i> (Eng) L. Bens	White-Flowered Vismagita											X	X				X
<i>Opuntia imbricata</i> (How) DC	Tree Cholla	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
<i>Opuntia leptocaulis</i> DC	Desert Christmas Cactus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Opuntia phaeacantha</i> Eng	Pancake Prickly-pear	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X
<i>Opuntia violacea</i> Eng	Purple Prickly-pear	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Peniocereus greggii</i> (Eng) B & R var. <i>greggii</i>	Night Blooming Cereus									X							
Chenopodiaceae																	
<i>Atriplex canescens</i> (Pursh) Nutt	Four-wing Salt Bush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Ceratoides lanata</i> (Pursh) How	Winter Fat											X	X				
<i>Chenopodium incanum</i> (Wats) Heller var. <i>elatum</i> Crawford	Gray Goosefoot					X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X
<i>Salsola australis</i> R. Brown	Russian Thistle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Convolvulaceae																	
<i>Convolvulus equitans</i> Benth	Hairy Bindweed											X					

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
<i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> L	False Morning Glory											X					
Cucurbitaceae																	
<i>Cucurbita digitata</i> Gray	Coyote-melon							X		X				X			
<i>Cucurbita foetidissima</i> HBK	Buffalo Gourd			X	X	X	X							X			
<i>Ibervillea tenuisecta</i> (Gray) Small	Globe Berry											X		X	X	X	X
Cupressaceae																	
<i>Juniperus deppeana</i> Steud	Alligator Juniper																
<i>Juniperus monosperma</i> (Eng) Sarg	One-seed Juniper	X	X										X				
Ephedraceae																	
<i>Ephedra trifurca</i> Torr	Mormon-Tea	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Euphorbiaceae																	
<i>Euphorbia</i> sprout (<i>E. fendeleri</i> Torr & Gray?)	Milk Spurge																
<i>Euphorbia albomarginata</i> Torr & Gray	Rattlesnake Weed											X	X			X	X
Fabaceae																	
<i>Acacia constricta</i> Benth	White Thorn	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X				
<i>Acacia greggi</i> Gray	Catclaw							X		X	X	X					X
<i>Astragalus allochrous</i> Gray	Hassayampa Milkvetch				X											X	X
													X				

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
<i>Astragalus mollissimus</i> Torr	Woolly Loco				X												
<i>Cassia bauhiniodes</i> Gray	Two-leaf Sena	X	X								X	X	X			X	X
<i>Ceasilipinia gilliesii</i> Wall	Bird of paradise											X					
<i>Dalea formosa</i> Torr	Feather Indigo Bush	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X
<i>Hoffmanseggia glauca</i> (Orr) Eifert	Hog Potato			X										X	X		
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> Torr	Honey Mesquite	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Quercus turbinella</i> Greene	Oak											X	X				
Fouquieriaceae																	
<i>Fouquieria splendens</i> Eng	Ocotillo	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X
Garryaceae																	
<i>Garrya wrightii</i> Torr	Silk Tassel											X	X				
Hydrophyllaceae																	
<i>Phacelia congesta</i> Hook	Tight Phacellia	X	X					X		X	X	X	X				
Juncaceae																	
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	Rush										X						
Koeberliniaceae																	
<i>Koeberlinia spinosa</i> Zucc	All Thorn	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Laminaceae																	
<i>Hedeoma nanum</i> (Torr) Briq	False Pennyroyal												X				

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
Liliaceae																	
<i>Allium macropetalum</i> Rydb	Onion	X	X														X
Loasaceae																	
<i>Mentzillia albicaulis</i> (Hook) Torr & Gray	White Tack Stem																X
Malvaceae																	
<i>Hibiscus denudatus</i> Benth.	Pale Hibiscus															X	X
<i>Sida leprosa</i> (Ort) K. Schum	Scurfy Sida					X	X										
<i>Sphaeralcea angustifolia</i> (Cav) G. Don	Narrow Leaf Globemallow					X	X							X		X	X
<i>Sphaeralcea subhasts</i> Coult	Wrinkled Globemallow				X			X		X	X	X	X			X	X
Martynigiaceae																	
<i>Proboscidea altheaefolia</i> (Woot) Woot & Standl	Devil's Claw										X						
Moraceae																	
<i>Morus microphylla</i> Buckl	Texas Mulberry																X
Nyctaginaceae																	
<i>Acleisanthes longiflora</i> Gray	Angle Trumpets														X		
<i>Mirabilis multiflora</i> (Torr) Gray	Desert Four O'clock										X		X				

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
Oleaceae																	
<i>Menodora scoparia</i> Eng	Menodora											X					
Pinaceae																	
<i>Pinus edulus</i> Eng	Piñon Pine											X	X				
Plantaginaceae																	
<i>Plantage patagonica</i> Jacq	Wooly Indian Wheat	X	X	X											X		
Poaceae																	
<i>Aristida purpurea</i> Nutt	Purple Three-awn	X	X	X	X			X		X			X	X			
<i>Aristida</i> sp.	Three-Awn											X					
<i>Bouteloua barbata</i> Lag	Six-week Grama	X	X		X	X	X				X	X	X				
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> (Michx) Torr	Side Oats Grama	X	X					X		X	X		X			X	X
<i>Chloris virgata</i> Swartz	Feather Fingergrass										X	X					
<i>Distichlis spicata</i> L.Greene var. <i>stricta</i> (Torr) Beetle	Inland Salt Grass													X	X		
<i>Erioneuron pulchellum</i> (HBK) Takeoka	Fluff Grass	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Hilaria mutica</i> (Buckl) Benth	Tobosa Grass			X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Muhlenbergia arenacea</i> (Buckl) Benth	Ear Muhly				X	X	X					X	X		X	X	X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
<i>Muhlenbergia porteri</i> Scribn	Bush Muhly	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Scleropogon brevifolius</i> Phil	Burro Grass	X	X									X	X				
<i>Sporobolus airioides</i> (Torr) Torr	Alkali Sacaton Dropseed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i> (Torr) Gray	Sand Dropseed	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Sporobolus flexuosus</i> (Thurb) Rybd	Meas Dropseed	X	X									X					
Polemoniaceae																	
<i>Eriastrum diffusum</i> (Gray) Mason	Miniature Wooly-star													X			
<i>Ipomopsis longiflora</i> (Torr) V. Grant	Blue Trumpets			X													
<i>Phlox multiflora</i> Nels	Multi-flowered phlox											X					
<i>Phlox longifolia</i> Nutt	Long-flowered phlox											X					
Polygonaceae																	
<i>Eriogonum abertianum</i> Torr	Abert's Buckwheat	X	X	X													
<i>Eriogonum deflexum</i> Torr	Skeleton Buckwheat	X	X			X	X				X			X	X	X	X
<i>Eriogonum hieracifolium</i> Benth	Eriogonum								X			X	X				
<i>Rumex mexicanus</i> Mesin	Mexican Doc							X		X	X		X				X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
Portulacaceae																	
<i>Portulaca</i> sp.	Portulaca	X	X			X	X									X	X
Rhamnaceae																	
<i>Ceanothus greggi</i> Gray	Desert Ceanothus												X				
<i>Condalia warnockii</i> MC Johnst	Crucillo			X								X					X
<i>Microrhamnus ericoides</i> Gray	Javelina Bush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Ziziphus obtusifolia</i> (Torr & Gray) Gray	Lotebush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rosaceae																	
<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> Raf	Birchleaf Mountain Mahogany											X	X				
<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i> (D. Don) Endl	Apache Plume	X	X			X	X	X		X	X		X			X	X
Saliaceae																	
<i>Salix exigua</i> Nutt	Sandbar Willow	X	X														
Scrophulariaceae																	
<i>Castilleja lanata</i> Gray	Indian Paint-Brush												X				X
<i>Penstemon barbatus</i> (Cav) Roth	Penstemon												X				
Sinopteridaceae																	

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
<i>Cheilanthes tomentosa</i> Link	Wooly Lipfern	X	X									X	X			X	X
<i>Notholaena standleyi</i> Maxon	Standley's Cloakfern														X		
Solanceae																	
<i>Chamaesaracha sordida</i> (Dun) Endl	Dingy Chamaesaracha															X	X
<i>Datura quercifolia</i> HBK	Thorn Apple										X				X		
<i>Lycium pallidum</i> Miers	Pale Stem Wolfberry											X	X				X
<i>Physalis hederifolia</i> Gray	Ground Cherry											X		X			
<i>Solanum eleagnifolium</i> Cav	Bull-nettle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Tamariaceae																	
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i> Pall	Salt Cedar																X
Typhaceae																	
<i>Typha latifolia</i> L	Cattails																X
Verbenaceae																	
<i>Glandularia bipinnatida</i> Nutt	Dakota Vervain														X		
<i>Verbena ambrosifolia</i> Rydb	Western Pink Verbena					X	X				X						X
Zygophyllaceae																	
<i>Larrea tridentata</i> (DC) Cov	Creosote Bush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section															
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L	Puncture Vine			X													
Total number of taxa observed per area		60	59	36	36	54	54	55	22	57	54	73	76	37	38	59	86

Appendix D-2. List of plant species observed at various test areas on the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) during the biological survey. Plants were keyed out using Allred (1988), Kearney and Peebles (1951), and Weniger (1991). An X represents observed taxa, and highlighted text indicates threatened, endangered, sensitive, or protected taxa.

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Facility							
		100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800
Agavaceae									
<i>Agave palmeri</i> Eng	Agave								X
<i>Dasyllirion wheeleri</i> Wats	Sotol	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
<i>Nolina microcarpa</i> Wats	Beargrass	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Yucca baccata</i> (Eng) Trel	Banana Yucca	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Yucca elata</i> Eng	Soaptree Yucca	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Amarillidaceae									
<i>Zephyranthes longifolia</i> Hemsl	Zephyry-lily					X			X
Anacardiaceae									
<i>Rhus microphylla</i> Eng	Littleleaf Sumac	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Asclepiadaceae									
<i>Asclepias brachstephana</i> Eng	Short-crowned Milkweed		X						
Asteraceae									
<i>Aphanostephus ramosissimus</i> DC	Lazy Daisy					X	X		X
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i> Nutt	Louisiana White Sage	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Baileya multiradata</i> Harv & Gray	Marigold		X	X	X			X	
<i>Baccharis glutinosa</i> Pers	Seep Willow				X	X	X		X
<i>Bahia oblongifolia</i> Gray	Bahi		X					X	
<i>Brickellia lacinata</i> Gray	Cutleaf Brickellbush	X	X						
<i>Cirsium ochrocentrum</i> Gray	Yellow Spine Thistle		X		X				
<i>Conzuya couteri</i> Gray	Mare's Tail		X						
<i>Dyssodia acerosa</i> DC	Prickleaf Dogwood							X	
<i>Erigeron bellidiastrum</i> Nutt	Western Fleabane	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
<i>Flourensia cernua</i> DC	Tarbrush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Facility							
		100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800
<i>Grindelia squarrosa</i> (Pursh) Dun	Curlycup Gumweed	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i> (Pursh) Britt & Rusby	Broom Snakeweed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Machaeranthera tanacetifolia</i> (HBK) Nees	Tahoka Daisy				X	X	X		X
<i>Parthenium incanum</i> HBK	Mariola	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Perezia nana</i> Gray	Desert Holly	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Psilostrophe tagetna</i> (Nutt) Greene	Paper Flower	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
<i>Stephanomeria pauciflora</i> (Torr) Nels	Few Flower Wire-lettuce			X	X				
Bignoniaceae									
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> (Cav) Sweet	Desert Willow			X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Maurandya wislizenii</i> Eng	Net Cup Snapdragon Vine	X							
Boraginaceae									
<i>Lappula redowskii</i> (Hornem) Greene	Stickseed		X	X	X				
Brassicaceae									
<i>Dithyrea wislizenii</i> Eng	Spectacle-pod					X	X	X	X
<i>Draba cuneifolia</i> Nutt	Whitlow Grass		X	X		X	X	X	X
<i>Lepidium montanum</i> Nutt	Pepper Grass			X					
<i>Lesquerella gordonii</i> (Gray) Wats	Bladderpod		X	X				X	
<i>Streptanthus arizonicus</i> Wats	Twist Flower				X	X	X	X	X
Cactaceae									
<i>Coryphantha macromeris</i> (Eng) Lem	Long Mamma			X		X	X	X	X
<i>Coryphantha vivipara</i> (Eng) L. Benson	Ball Cactus	X							
<i>Echinocereus chloranthus</i> (Eng) Ruml	Green Flowered Torch Cactus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Echinocereus fendleri</i> Eng	Strawberry Cactus	X	X		X	X	X	X	X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Facility							
		100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800
<i>Echinocactus horizonthalonius</i> Lem	Turk's Head	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Echinocereus triglochidiatus</i> Eng	Claret cup Cactus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Echinocereus viridiflorus</i> Eng	Spiny Wax Candle Cactus	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
<i>Ferocactus wislizenii</i> (Eng) Britt & Rose	Barrel Cactus	X						X	
<i>Mammillaria microcarpa</i> Eng	Pincushion Cactus	X							
<i>Mammillaria tuberculosa</i> Eng	Tube Cactus					X	X		X
<i>Neolloydia intertexta</i> var. <i>dasyacantha</i> (Eng) L. Bens	White-Flowered Visnagita				X				X
<i>Opuntia imbricata</i> (How) DC	Tree Cholla	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Opuntia leptocaulis</i> DC	Desert Christmas Cactus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Opuntia phaeacantha</i> Eng	Pancake Prickly-pear	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Opuntia violacea</i> Eng	Purple Prickly-pear	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chenopodiaceae									
<i>Atriplex canescens</i> (Pursh) Nutt	Four-wing Salt Bush	X	X	X	X			X	
<i>Ceratoides lanata</i> (Pursh) How	Winter Fat			X					
<i>Chenopodium incanum</i> (Wats) Heller var. <i>elatum</i> Crawford	Gray Goosefoot	X	X	X				X	X
<i>Salsola australis</i> R. Brown	Russian Thistle	X	X	X	X			X	
Convolvulaceae									
<i>Convolvulus equitans</i> Benth	Hairy Bindweed				X				
Cucurbitaceae									
<i>Cucurbita digitata</i> Gray	Coyote-melon							X	
<i>Cucurbita foetidissima</i> HBK	Buffalo Gourd		X	X					

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Facility							
		100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800
Cupressaceae									
<i>Juniperus monosperma</i> (Eng) Sarg	One-seed Juniper	X		X		X	X		X
Ephederaceae									
<i>Ephedra trifurca</i> Torr	Mormon-Tea	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Euphorbiaceae									
<i>Euphorbia</i> sprout (<i>E. fendeleri</i> Torr & Gray ?)	Milk Spurge		X						X
<i>Euphorbia albomarginata</i> Torr & Gray	Rattlesnake Weed				X				
Fabaceae									
<i>Acacia constricta</i> Benth	White Thorn	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Acacia greggi</i> Gray	Catclaw			X		X	X	X	X
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> Torr	Honey Mesquite	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fouquieriaceae									
<i>Fouquieria splendens</i> Eng	Ocotillo	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hydrophyllaceae									
<i>Phacelia congesta</i> Hook	Tight Phacellia	X			X			X	
Koeberliniaceae									
<i>Koeberlinia spinosa</i> Zucc	All Thorn	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Liliaceae									
<i>Allium macropetalum</i> Rydb	Onion	X				X	X		X
Loasaceae									
<i>Mentzillia albicaulis</i> (Hook) Torr & Gray	White Tack Stem			X	X				
Malvaceae									
<i>Hibiscus denudatus</i> Benth	Pale Hibiscus		X						
<i>Sphaeralcea angustifolia</i> (Cav) G. Don	Narrow Leaf Globemallow		X	X	X				
<i>Sphaeralcea subhasts</i> Coult	Wrinkled Globemallow		X					X	
Moraceae									
<i>Morus microphylla</i> Buckl	Texas Mulberry			X		X	X		X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Facility							
		100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800
Nyctaginaceae									
<i>Acleisanthes longiflora</i> Gray	Angle Trumpets			X					
Plantaginaceae									
<i>Plantage patagonica</i> Jacq	Wooly Indian Wheat	X							
Poaceae									
<i>Aristida purpurea</i> Nutt	Purple Three-awn	X		X	X			X	
<i>Bouteloua barbata</i> Lag	Six-week Grama	X		X					
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> (Michx) Torr	Side Oats Grama	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
<i>Chloris virgata</i> Swartz	Feather Fingergrass				X				
<i>Erioneuron pulchellum</i> (HBK) Takeoka	Fluff Grass	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
<i>Hilaria mutica</i> (Buckl) Benth	Tobosa Grass		X			X	X		X
<i>Muhlenbergia arenacea</i> (Buckl) Benth	Ear Muhly		X		X	X	X		X
<i>Muhlenbergia porteri</i> Scribn	Bush Muhly	X	X		X	X	X		X
<i>Scleropogon brevifolius</i> Phil	Burro Grass	X							
<i>Sporobolus airoides</i> (Torr) Torr	Alkali Sacaton Dropseed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i> (Torr) Gray	Sand Dropseed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Sporobolus flexuosus</i> (Thurb) Rybd	Meas Dropseed	X							
Polygonaceae									
<i>Eriognum deflexum</i> Torr	Skeleton Buckwheat	X	X	X					
<i>Rumex mexicanus</i> Mesin	Mexican Doc					X	X	X	X
Portulacaceae									
<i>Portulaca</i> sp.	Portulaca	X	X			X	X		X
Rhamnaceae									
<i>Condalia warnockii</i> MC Johnst	Crucillo					X	X		X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Facility							
		100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800
<i>Microrhamnus ericoides</i> Gray	Javelina Bush	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
<i>Ziziphus obtusifolia</i> (Torr & Gray) Gray	Lotebush	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Rosaceae									
<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i> (D. Don) Endl	Apache Plume	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Salicaceae									
<i>Salix exigua</i> Nutt	Sandbar Willow	X							
Scrophulariaceae									
<i>Maurandya wislizenii</i> Eng	Net-cup Snapdragon Vine					X	X		X
Sinopteridaceae									
<i>Cheilanthes tomentosa</i> Link	Wooly Lipfern								X
Solanaceae									
<i>Chamaesaracha sordida</i> (Dun) Endl	Dingy Chamaesaracha		X		X				
<i>Datura quercifolia</i> HBK	Thorn Apple				X				
<i>Solanum eleagnifolium</i> Cav	Bull-nettle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tamaricaceae									
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i> Pall	Salt Cedar				X				
Typhaceae									
<i>Typha latifolia</i> L	Cattails				X	X	X		X
Verbenaceae									
<i>Verbena ambrosifolia</i> Rydb	Western Pink Verbena			X		X	X		X
Zygophyllaceae									
<i>Larrea tridentata</i> (DC) Cov	Creosote Bush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total number of taxa observed per facility test area:		57	57	56	54	59	58	54	64

Appendix D-3. List of plant species observed at the White Sands Test Facility. Ten sections of road where surveyed, which include: 1) TDRS road north to Forks; 2) East Fork TDRS road; 3) West Fork TDRS road; 4) North Jornada; 5) East San Andres; 6) North of Love Ranch and East Fork; 7) North Fork Love Ranch; 8) West Fork Bear Canyon; 9) East Fork Bear Canyon; 10) NASA Road. An X represents observed taxa, and highlighted text indicates threatened, endangered, or sensitive taxa.

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Roadway									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Agavaceae											
<i>Agave palmeri</i> Eng	Agave					X			X	X	
<i>Dasyllirion wheeleri</i> Wats	Sotol		X			X	X	X	X	X	
<i>Nolina microcarpa</i> Wats	Beargrass		X			X	X	X		X	
<i>Yucca baccata</i> (Eng) Trel	Banana Yucca	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Yucca elata</i> Eng	Soaptree Yucca	X	X	X		X	X	X			X
Amaranthaceae											
<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i> Wats	Pigweed										X
Anacardiaceae											
<i>Rhus microphylla</i> Eng	Littleleaf Sumac	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
<i>Rhus trilobata</i> Nutt	Squaw Bush								X	X	X
Asteraceae											
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i> Nutt	Louisiana White Sage	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Baileya multiradata</i> Harv & Gray	Marigold	X									X
<i>Bahia absinthifolia</i> Benth	Sageleaf Bahia				X						
<i>Bahia pedata</i> Gray	Bahi								X		X
<i>Brickellia californica</i> (Torr & Gray) Gray	California Brickel Bush						X		X		
<i>Brickellia lacinata</i> Gray	Cutleaf Brickellbush	X		X			X	X	X	X	X
<i>Cirsium ochrocentrum</i> Gray	Yellow Spine Thistle			X					X		X
<i>Conzya couteri</i> Gray	Mare's Tail				X						
<i>Erigeron bellidiastrum</i> Nutt	Western Fleabane				X		X	X		X	
<i>Flourensia cernua</i> DC	Tarbrush	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Grindelia squarrosa</i> (Pursh) Dun	Curlycup Gumweed	X	X	X	X	X		X			X
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i> (Pursh) Britt & Rusby	Broom Snakeweed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Roadway									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Helianthus ciliaris</i> DC	Blueweed										X
<i>Hymenoxys odorata</i> (DC) Kuntz	Fragrant Bitterweed								X		X
<i>Melampodium leucanthum</i> Torr & Gray	Blackfoot Daisy									X	
<i>Perezia nana</i> Gray	Desert Holly	X	X	X			X	X		X	X
<i>Psilostrophe tagetna</i> (Nutt) Greene	Paper Flower	X	X	X			X	X		X	
<i>Tessaria sericea</i> (Nutt) Shinner	Arrow-weed										X
<i>Viguiera dentata</i> (Cav) Spreng var. <i>dentata</i>	Golden-eye										X
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> L	Cocklebar										X
Berberidaceae											
<i>Berberis haematocarpous</i> Wooton	Bayberry						X		X	X	
Bignoniaceae											
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> (Cav) Sweet	Desert Willow	X					X	X	X	X	X
Brassicaceae											
<i>Draba cuneifolia</i> Nutt	Whitlow Grass	X	X				X	X	X		X
<i>Erysimum capitatum</i> (Doug) Greene	Douglas Wallflower				X				X	X	X
<i>Lepidium montanum</i> Nutt	Pepper Grass	X									X
<i>Lesquerella gordonii</i> (Gray) Wats	Bladderpod								X	X	X
<i>Neriyrenia camporum</i> (Gray) Greene	Bicolor Mustard									X	
Cactaceae											
<i>Coryphantha macromeris</i> (Eng) Lem	Long Mamma				X			X			
<i>Coryphantha sulcata</i> Eng	Finger Cactus								X		
<i>Echinocereus chloranthus</i> (Eng) Ruml	Green Flowered Torch Cactus		X				X	X	X		
<i>Echinocereus fendleri</i> Eng	Strawberry Cactus				X		X				

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Roadway									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Echinocactus horzonthalonius</i> Lem	Turk's Head		X					X			
<i>Echinocereus triglochidiatus</i> Eng	Claret cup Cactus	X	X	X		X	X	X			
<i>Echinocereus viridiflorus</i> Eng	Spiny Wax Candle Cactus					X	X	X	X		X
<i>Opuntia imbricata</i> (How) DC	Tree Cholla	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
<i>Opuntia leptocaulis</i> DC	Desert Christmas Cactus		X	X			X	X			X
<i>Opuntia phaeacantha</i> Eng	Pancake Prickly-pear				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Opuntia violacea</i> Eng	Purple Prickly-pear	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Chenopodiaceae											
<i>Atriplex canescens</i> (Pursh) Nutt	Four-wing Salt Bush	X		X	X	X	X	X			X
<i>Ceratoides lanata</i> (Pursh) How	Winter Fat					X	X			X	
<i>Chenopodium incanum</i> (Wats) Heller var. <i>elatum</i> Crawford	Gray Goosefoot	X	X	X	X						
<i>Salsola australis</i> R. Brown	Russian Thistle	X		X	X			X	X	X	X
Commelinaceae											
<i>Commelina erecta</i> L var. <i>angustifolia</i> (Michx) Fern	Narrowleaf Dayflower										X
Convolvulaceae											
<i>Convolvulus equitans</i> Benth	Hairy Bindweed									X	
<i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> L	False Morning Glory								X		
Cucurbitaceae											
<i>Cucurbita digitata</i> Gray	Coyote-melon			X	X						
<i>Cucurbita foetidissima</i> HBK	Buffalo Gourd								X	X	X
Cupressaceae											
<i>Juniperus deppeana</i> Steud	Alligator Juniper								X		
<i>Juniperus monosperma</i> (Eng) Sarg	One-seed Juniper					X	X	X	X	X	

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Roadway									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ephederaceae											
<i>Ephdera torreyana</i> Wats	Torrey's Ephedra						X				
<i>Ephedra trifurca</i> Torr	Mormon-Tea		X			X	X	X	X		X
Euphorbiaceae											
<i>Euphorbia albomarginata</i> Torr & Gray	Rattlesnake Weed										X
Fabaceae											
<i>Acacia constricta</i> Benth	White Thorn		X			X	X	X	X		
<i>Acacia greggi</i> Gray	Catclaw								X		
<i>Cassia bauhiniodes</i> Gray	Two-leaf Sena	X			X		X	X	X		X
<i>Ceasilipinia gilliesii</i> Wall	Bird of paradise										X
<i>Dalea formosa</i> Torr	Feather Indigo Bush	X	X	X			X	X	X		X
<i>Hoffmanseggia glauca</i> (Ort) Eifert	Hog Potato								X		
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i> L	Burclover										X
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> Torr	Honey Mesquite	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fagaceae											
<i>Quercus turbinella</i> Greene	Oak								X		
Fouquieriaceae											
<i>Fouquieria splendens</i> Eng	Ocotillo		X			X	X	X	X	X	
Garryaceae											
<i>Garrya wrightii</i> Torr	Silk Tassel						X		X		
Hydrophyllaceae											
<i>Phacelia congesta</i> Hook	Tight Phacellia					X					
Koeberliniaceae											
<i>Koeberlinia spinosa</i> Zucc	All Thorn					X	X	X		X	X
Laminaceae											
<i>Hedeoma nanum</i> (Torr) Briq	False Pennyroyal						X		X		
Liliaceae											
<i>Allium macropetalum</i> Rydb	Onion								X	X	

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Roadway									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Loasaceae											
<i>Mentzilia albicaulis</i> (Hook) Torr & Gray	Whitestem Stickleaf										X
Malvaceae											
<i>Sphaeralcea angustifolia</i> (Cav) G. Don	Narrow Leaf Globemallow						X		X	X	X
<i>Sphaeralcea subhasts</i> Coult	Wrinkled Globemallow						X				X
Nyctaginaceae											
<i>Mirabilis multiflora</i> (Torr) Gray	Desert Four O'clock								X	X	
Oleaceae											
<i>Menodora scoparia</i> Eng	Menodora				X				X		X
Papaveraceae											
<i>Argemone pleiacantha</i> Greene	Prickly Poppy										X
Pinaceae											
<i>Pinys edulus</i> Eng	Piñon Pine						X		X		
Poaceae											
<i>Aristida purpurea</i> Nutt	Purple Three-awn	X			X						
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> Vitm	Blue Stem				X						X
<i>Bouteloua barbata</i> Lag	Six-week Grama									X	
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> (Michx) Torr	Side Oats Grama	X							X	X	X
<i>Chloris virgata</i> Swartz	Feather Fingergrass						X		X		
<i>Erioneuron pulchellum</i> (HBK) Takeoka	Fluff Grass	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Eragrostis curvula</i> (Schrad) Ness	Weeping Lovegrass										X
<i>Hilaria mutica</i> (Buckl) Benth	Tobosa Grass			X	X		X	X	X	X	
<i>Muhlenbergia arenicola</i> Buckl	Sand Muhly										X
<i>Muhlenbergia porteri</i> Scribn	Bush Muhly	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Roadway									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Sporobolus airoides</i> (Torr) Torr	Alkali Sacaton Dropseed	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i> (Torr) Gray	Sand Dropseed						X	X	X	X	
<i>Stipa eminens</i> Cav	Southwestern Neddegrass										X
Polemoniaceae											
<i>Ipomopsis longiflora</i> (Torr) V. Grant	Blue Trumpets									X	
<i>Phlox longifolia</i> Nutt	Long-flowered phlox								X		X
Polygonaceae											
<i>Eriogonum deflexum</i> Torr	Skeleton Buckwheat							X			X
<i>Eriogonum hieracifolium</i> Benth	Eriogonum					X	X			X	
Portulacaceae											
<i>Portulaca umbraticola</i> HBK	Chinese Hat										X
Rhamnaceae											
<i>Condalia warnockii</i> MC Johnst	Crucillo							X			
<i>Microrhamnus ericoides</i> Gray	Javelina Bush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
<i>Ziziphus obtusifolia</i> (Torr & Gray) Gray	Lotebush						X	X	X	X	
Rosaceae											
<i>Cerocarpus montanus</i> Raf	Birch-leaf Mountain Mahogany									X	
<i>Fallugia paradoxa</i> (D. Don) Endl	Apache Plume					X	X	X	X	X	X
Salicaceae											
<i>Salix exigua</i> Nutt	Sandbar Willow						X				
Scrophulariaceae											
<i>Castilleja lanata</i> Gray	Indian Paint-brush								X		
<i>Maurandya wislizenii</i> Eng	Net-cup Snapdragon Vine								X	X	X

Family/Scientific Name	Common Name	Roadway									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Penstemon barbatus</i> (Cav) Roth	Penstemon						X				
Solanaceae											
<i>Chamaesaracha sordida</i> (Dun) Endl	Dingy Chamaesaracha								X		X
<i>Datura wrightii</i> Regel	Thornapple										X
<i>Physalis hederifolia</i> Gray	Ground Cherry								X		
<i>Solanum eleagnifolium</i> Cav	Bull-nettle	X			X		X		X	X	X
Tamaricaceae											
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i> Ledeb	Salt-Cedar										X
Ulmaceae											
<i>Celtis reticulata</i> Torr	Netleaf Hackberry									X	
Verbenaceae											
<i>Glandularia bipinnatida</i> Nutt	Dakota Vervain								X	X	
Viscaceae											
<i>Phoradendron villosum</i> (Nutt) Nutt subsp <i>coryae</i> (Trel) Wiens	Fuzzy Mistletoe								X	X	
Zygophyllaceae											
<i>Larrea tridentata</i> (DC) Cov	Creosote Bush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total number of taxa observed per road segment:		32	29	26	31	29	53	45	61	52	65

Appendix E-1. Animal Species Observed and Expected in the WSTF Biological Survey Area.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Expected	Specific Survey Areas															
			1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
MAMMALS:																		
Antelope Ground Squirrel	<i>Ammospermophilus interpres</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pronghorn	<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coyote	<i>Canus latrans</i>	X	-	-	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-
Merriam's Kangaroo Rat	<i>Dipodomys merriami</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ord's Kangaroo Rat	<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Banner-tailed Kangaroo Rat	<i>Dipodomys spectabilis</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Porcupine	<i>Erithizon dorsatum</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blacktailed Jackrabbbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X
White-throated Woodrat	<i>Neotoma albigula</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	X
Northern Grasshopper Mouse	<i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Silky Pocket Mouse	<i>Perognathus flavus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus variegatus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Common Name	Scientific Name	Expected	Specific Survey Areas															
			1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
Desert Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X
Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BIRDS:																		
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-
Cassin's Sparrow	<i>Aimophila cassinii</i>	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficeps</i>	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-
Sage Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza belli</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	X	-	-	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-
Great-horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-
Lark Bunting	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gambel's Quail	<i>Callipepla gambelii</i>	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	X
Scaled Quail	<i>Callipepla squamata</i>	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X
Whip-poor-will	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Common Name	Scientific Name	Expected	Specific Survey Areas															
			1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X
Housefinch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-
Green-tailed Towee	<i>Chlorura chlorura</i>	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-
Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	-	-
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
Chihuahuan Raven	<i>Corvus cryptoleucus</i>	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	X	-	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X
Ladderback Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos scalaris</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-
Western Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	X	-	X		X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-
Roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X
Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus pasisorum</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	X

Common Name	Scientific Name	Expected	Specific Survey Areas															
			1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X		X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	X
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harris's Hawk	<i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonoto</i>	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poor-will	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	X
Brown Canyon Towhee	<i>Pipilo fuscus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rufous-sided Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polióptila coerúlea</i>	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X
Black-tail Gnatcatcher	<i>Polióptila melanúra</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Poocetes gramineus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pyrrhuloxia	<i>Pyrrhuloxia sinuáta</i>	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-

Common Name	Scientific Name	Expected	Specific Survey Areas															
			1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Says Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	X
Western Burrowing Owl	<i>Speotyto cunicularia</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-
Bronzed Cowbird	<i>Tangávius aéneus</i>	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-
Curve-billed Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyránnus verticális</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyránnus vociferans</i>	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-
Barn Owl	<i>Týto álba</i>	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Hummingbird spp.	unknown spp.	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenáida asiática</i>	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Common Name	Scientific Name	Expected	Specific Survey Areas																
			1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36	
REPTILES:																			
Chihuahuan Spotted Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus exsanguis</i>	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X
Little Striped Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus inornatus</i>	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	X
New Mexico Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus neomexicanus</i>	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-
Checkered Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus tessellatus</i>	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	X
Western Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grassland Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus uniparens</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Western Diamondback Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus atrox</i>	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Prairie Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus viridis viridis</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Collared Lizard	<i>Crotaphytus collaris</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-
Leopard Lizard	<i>Crotaphytus wislizenii</i>	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
Northern Ringneck Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus edwardsi</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Earless Lizard	<i>Holbrookia maculata</i>	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Greater Earless Lizard	<i>Holbrookia texana</i>	X	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
Coachwhip	<i>Masticophis flagellum</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bullsnake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-

Common Name	Scientific Name	Expected	Specific Survey Areas															
			1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
Texas Horned Lizard	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Round-tailed Horned Lizard	<i>Phrynosoma douglassi</i>	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	X
Round-tailed Horned Lizard	<i>Phrynosoma modestum</i>	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	X
Patch Nose Snake	<i>Salvadora grahamiae lineata</i>	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Desert Spiny Lizard	<i>Sceloporus magister</i>	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Fence Lizard	<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Western Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene ornata</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tree Lizard	<i>Urosaurus ornatus</i>	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Side-blotched Lizard	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	X	X	X
AMPHIBIANS:																		
Tiger Salamander	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Plains Toad	<i>Bufo cognatus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-spotted Toad	<i>Bufo punctatus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas Toad	<i>Bufo speciosus</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Woodhouse Toad	<i>Bufo woodhousei</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Couch's Spadefoot Toad	<i>Scaphiopus couchi</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Common Name	Scientific Name	Expected	Specific Survey Areas															
			1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36
Western Spadefoot Toad	<i>Scaphiopus hammondi</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spadefoot Tadpoles	Unknown spp.	X			X													
MOLLUSCA																		
Koch's Land Snail	<i>Ashmunella kochi kochi</i>	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-

Appendix E-2. List of animal species observed at the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) during the biological survey.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section																	
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31 W	32W	35	36	Total	
MAMMALS:																			
<i>Ammospermophilus interpres</i>	Antelope Ground Squirrel	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	6	
<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	Pronghorn	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
<i>Canus latrans</i>	Coyote	-	2	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	11	
<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>	Ord's Kangaroo Rat	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
<i>Dipodomys spectabilis</i>	Banner-tailed Kangaroo Rat	8	4	1	-	14	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	
<i>Erithizon dorsatum</i>	Porcupine	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
<i>Lepus californicus</i>	Blacktailed Jackrabbit	7	5	7	5	4	9	9	4	18	3	2	5	12	8	6	5	109	
<i>Neotoma albigula</i>	White-throated Woodrat	3	4	8	7	7	6	5	5	9	4	3	2	12	2	5	8	90	
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Mule Deer	12	1	5	5	5	3	5	9	4	3	2	1	7	3	8	12	85	
<i>Oryx gazella</i>	African Oryx	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	
<i>Peromyscus spp.</i>	Deer Mice	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	
<i>Spermophilus variegatus</i>	Rock Squirrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	4	
<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>	Desert Cottontail	33	33	8	7	4	5	4	6	12	8	6	4	9	2	12	33	186	
<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Gray Fox	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	
Total Mammals:		64	51	33	24	38	32	35	25	43	18	15	13	43	18	34	62	548	

Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section																
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36	Total
BIRDS:																		
<i>Accipiter cooperi</i>	Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Spotted Sandpiper	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
<i>Aimophila cassinii</i>	Cassin's Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
<i>Aimóphila rúficeps</i>	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	Black-throated Sparrow	51	51	6	41	15	36	12	11	31	5	11	9	20	16	62	51	428
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	8
<i>Búbo virginíanus</i>	Great-horned Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk	-	4	2	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	18
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's Hawk	-	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	9
<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	Lark Bunting	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
<i>Callipepla gambelii</i>	Gambel's Quail	7	5	-	-	2	6	4	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	4	7	38
<i>Callipepla squamata</i>	Scaled Quail	8	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	10	2	-	-	-	-	5	8	37
<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	Cactus Wren	3	1	2	2	7	6	4	5	3	1	12	11	1	1	2	3	64
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Housefinch	17	7	1	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	9	1	1	1	3	17	62
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture	2	5	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	1	-	16	3	-	2	39
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Killdeer	-	9	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	18
<i>Chlorúra chlorúra</i>	Green-tailed Towee	-	-	-	-	7	4	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	16

Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section																
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31 W	32W	35	36	Total
<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	Lesser Nighthawk	5	19	5	1	8	16	5	1	7	5	1	-	1	2	10	5	91
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common Nighthawk	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	12
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Northern Harrier	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	7
<i>Columba livia</i>	Rock Dove	5	1	1	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	25
<i>Corvus cryptoleucus</i>	Chihuahuan Raven	1	-	1	9	-	-	-	-	13	9	-	-	2	2	2	1	40
<i>Dendrocopos scalaris</i>	Ladderback Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Horned Lark	-	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	8
<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>	Roadrunner	-	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	25	4	-	-	3	1	2	-	8	5	-	-	-	-	14	25	87
<i>Icterus pasisorum</i>	Scott's Oriole	1	1	1	2	4	3	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	5	3	26
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike	1	1	3	-	2	3	2	3	1	-	3	-	1	3	3	1	27
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern Mockingbird	15	15	17	6	5	5	7	5	6	3	5	6	5	7	8	15	130
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird	2	5	3	2	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	19
<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	Ash-throated Flycatcher	11	4	2	-	5	8	5	6	4	3	6	-	-	1	2	11	68
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	30
<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonoto</i>	Cliff Swallow	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>	Phainopepla	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section																
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31 W	32W	35	36	Total
<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>	Poor-will	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	3	12
<i>Pipilo fuscus</i>	Brown Canyon Towhee	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Rufous-sided Towhee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
<i>Polióptila coerúlea</i>	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	5
<i>Polióptila melanúra</i>	Black-tail Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	6
<i>Pyrrhuloxia sinuáta</i>	Pyrrhuloxia	2	2	-	-	4	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	17
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank Swallow	-	5	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	9
<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	Rock Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	5
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Says Phoebe	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	1	9
<i>Speotyto cunicularia</i>	Western Burrowing Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Spinus tristis</i>	Goldfinch	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Western Meadowlark	-	-	5	3	4	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	18
<i>Tangávius aéneus</i>	Bronzed Cowbird	-	-	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	14
<i>Toxóstoma curviróstre</i>	Curve-billed Thrasher	8	3	2	1	4	5	2	-	1	2	2	2	4	1	2	3	42
<i>Tyránnus verticális</i>	Western Kingbird	7	4	15	14	7	3	5	2	5	1	2	2	7	6	15	7	102
<i>Tyránnus vociferans</i>	Cassin's Kingbird	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	7
<i>Týto álba</i>	Barn Owl	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
unknown spp.	Hummingbird spp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	2	7

Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section																
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36	Total
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	White-winged Dove	14	8	7	5	14	9	9	6	6	7	9	2	2	1	2	14	115
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning Dove	30	30	4	7	9	11	6	23	38	3	33	4	4	2	42	30	276
Total Birds:		233	226	109	110	124	126	76	67	141	56	105	60	78	56	203	230	2,000
REPTILES:																		
<i>Cnemidophorus exsanguis</i>	Chihuahuan Spotted Whiptail	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	4	18
<i>Cnemidophorus inornatus</i>	Little Striped Whiptail	6	-	-	-	2	3	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	6	20
<i>Cnemidophorus neomexicanus</i>	New Mexico Whiptail	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	4
<i>Cnemidophorus tesselatus</i>	Checkered Whiptail	4	-	7	2	5	5	-	-	3	3	-	-	1	6	3	4	43
<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>	Western Whiptail	9	1	9	6	12	16	-	1	3	3	1	1	5	13	6	3	89
<i>Cnemidophorus uniparens</i>	Grassland Whiptail	15	1	5	6	-	3	-	4	14	4	4	1	4	12	6	15	94
<i>Crotalus atrox</i>	Western Diamondback Rattlesnake	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
<i>Crotalus viridis viridis</i>	Prairie Rattlesnake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
<i>Crotaphytus collaris</i>	Collared Lizard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
<i>Crotaphytus wislizenii</i>	Leopard Lizard	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	8
<i>Diadophis punctatus edwardsi</i>	Northern Ringneck Snake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Holbrookia maculata</i>	Lesser Earless Lizard	5	5	-	-	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	5	25

Scientific Name	Common Name	Square Mile Section																
		1	2	5	6	11	12	23	25	26	27	30E	31E	31W	32W	35	36	Total
<i>Holbrookia texana</i>	Greater Earless Lizard	1	-	1	-	4	3	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	17
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	Bullsnake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	Texas Horned Lizard	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
<i>Phrynosoma modestum</i>	Round-tailed Horned Lizard	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	1	-	1	1	-	1	12
<i>Salvadora grahamiae lineata</i>	Patch Nose Snake	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
<i>Sceloporus magister</i>	Desert Spiny Lizard	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Sceloporus undulatus</i>	Eastern Fence Lizard	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
<i>Urosaurus ornatus</i>	Tree Lizard	-	-	-	1	5	7	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	Side-blotched Lizard	42	1	4	1	8	6	4	2	4	2	2	-	-	3	12	42	133
Total Reptiles:		94	11	29	16	39	47	13	15	31	15	17	7	11	38	32	88	503
AMPHIBIANS:																		
Unknown spp	Spadefoot Tadpoles	-	-	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99
MOLLUSCA																		
<i>Ashmunella kochi kochi</i>	Koch's Land Snail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	30

Appendix E-3. List of animal species observed at the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) during the biological survey of dirt roads.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Roadway										
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
MAMMALS:												
<i>Ammospermophilus interpres</i>	Antelope Ground Squirrel	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	Pronghorn	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>	Ord's Kangaroo Rat	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Dipodomys spectabilis</i>	Banner-tailed Kangaroo Rat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
<i>Lepus californicus</i>	Blacktailed Jackrabbit	9	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	6	20
<i>Neotoma albigula</i>	White-throated Woodrat	3	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	8
<i>Neotoma mexicana</i>	Mexican Woodrat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Mule Deer	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	7	22
<i>Oryx gazella</i>	African Oryx	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-		-	4
<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>	Desert Cottontail	6	1	1	-	-	2	1	3	-	3	17
Total Mammals:		28	2	2	2	2	5	5	14	0	22	82
BIRDS:												
<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	Black-throated Sparrow	6	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	20
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	5
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Callipepla gambelii</i>	Gambel's Quail	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>	Cactus Wren	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	6
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Housefinch	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	4
<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>	Lesser Nighthawk	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	5
<i>Corvus cryptoleucus</i>	Chihuahuan Raven	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	7
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

Scientific Name	Common Name	Roadway										Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>	Roadrunner	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	3
<i>Gymnorhynchus cyanocephalus</i>	Piñon Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
<i>Hirundo rústica</i>	Barn Swallow	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	14
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	5
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern Mockingbird	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	8
<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>	Broad-Tailed Hummingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Western Meadowlark	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Toxostoma curvirostre</i>	Curve-billed Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4
<i>Toxostoma longirostre</i>	Long-billed Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	4
<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Western Kingbird	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	6
<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
<i>Zenaida asiática</i>	White-winged Dove	6	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning Dove	4	2	3	-	-	5	-	3	1	4	22
Total Birds:		35	4	12	9	5	9	4	14	3	54	149
REPTILES:												
<i>Cnemidophorus inornatus</i>	Little Striped Whiptail	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>	Western Whiptail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	10
<i>Cnemidophorus uniparens</i>	Grassland Whiptail	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	6
<i>Crotalus atrox</i>	Western Diamondback Rattlesnake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
<i>Crotaphytus collaris</i>	Collared Lizard	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Holbrookia maculata</i>	Lesser Earless Lizard	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>	Texas Horned Lizard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total Reptiles:		0	1	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	15	22

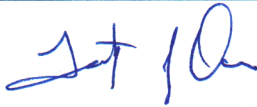
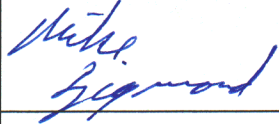

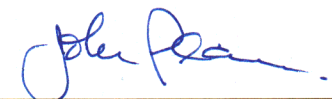

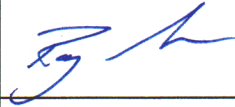
Appendix B

Public Comments on the EA for the Mid-Plume Constriction Area Remediation

**MID-PLUME CONSTRICTION AREA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PUBLIC MEETING**

January 25, 2002
Branigan Memorial Library

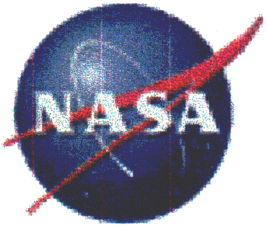
ATTENDEES

ATTENDEE (please print)	REPRESENTING	CONTACT INFORMATION (optional)	SIGNATURE
Tim Davis	Lynx, Ltd.	524-5024	
Mike Zigmund	NASA - WSTF	505-524-5484	
Tessa Chavez	BLM	525-4349	
John Pearson	Lynx	524-5483	
GEOFF GILES	LYNX, LTD.	524-5352	
Ray Spencer	Lynx	524-5450	



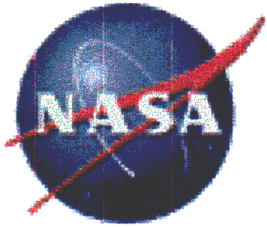
MID-PLUME CONSTRICTION AREA (MPCA) REMEDIATION PROJECT

January 25, 2002



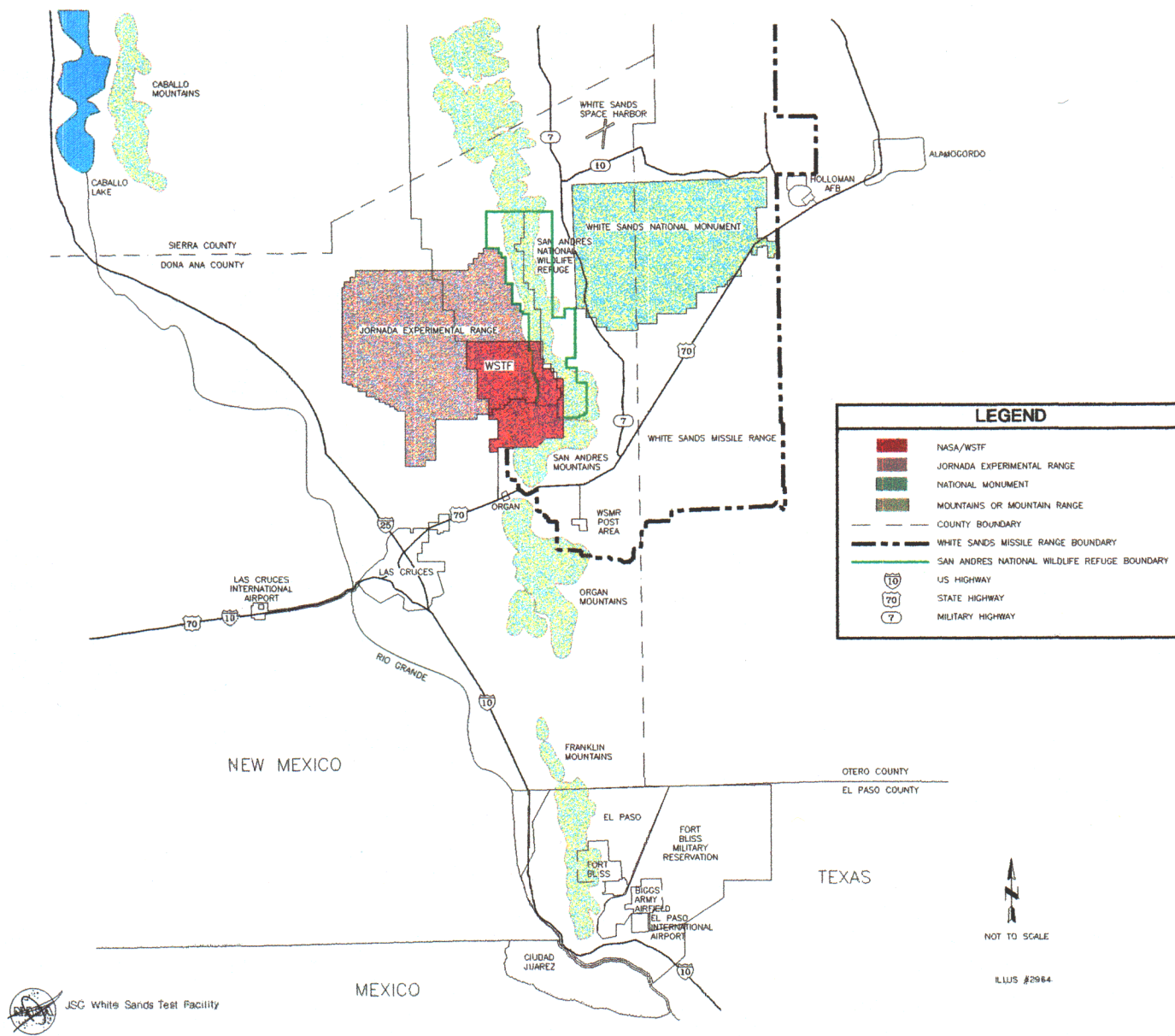
MPCA OVERVIEW

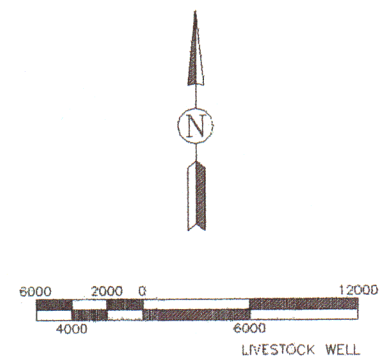
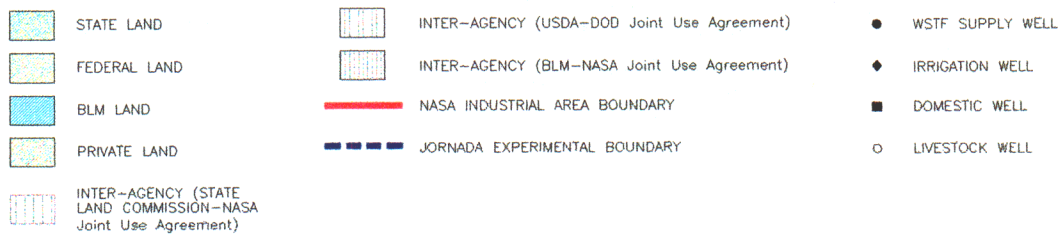
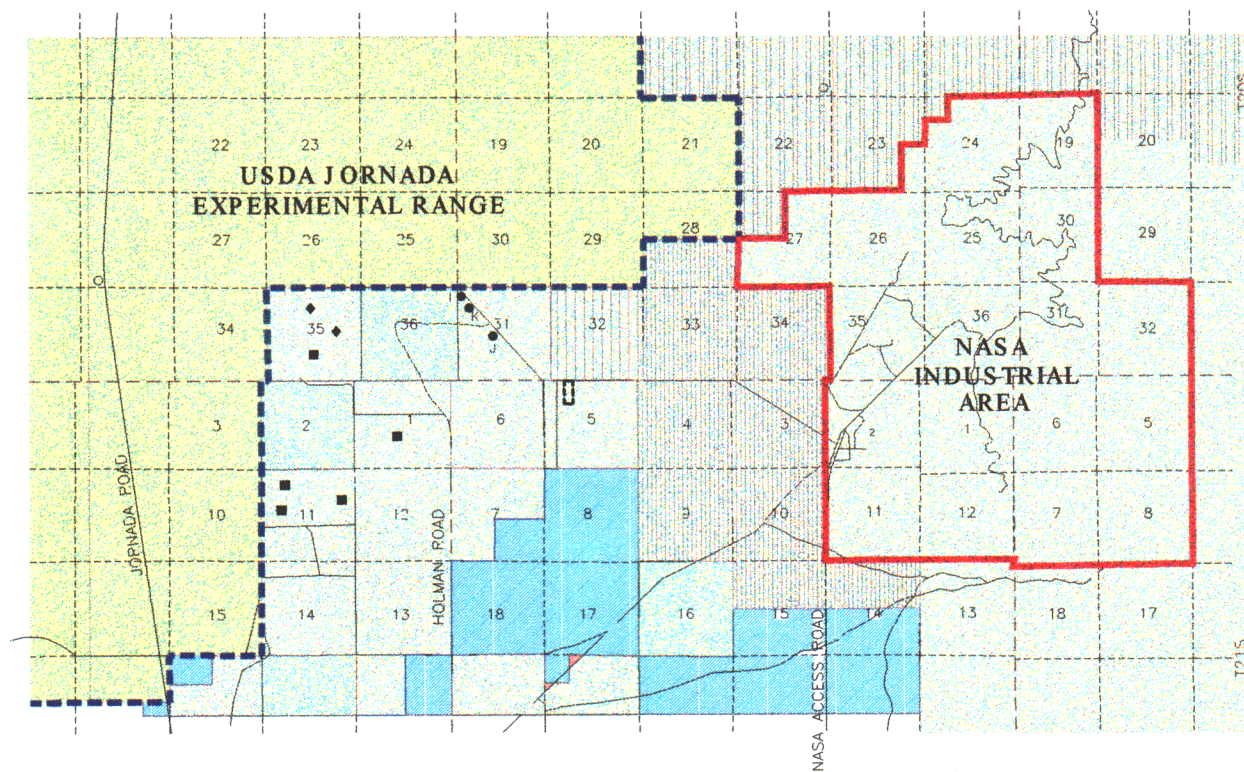
- System designed to supplement previously approved Plume-Front Stabilization System
- Consists of:
 - Between two to six groundwater extraction wells (anticipated flow rate of approximately 100 gpm)
 - Underground dual-walled transmission piping
 - Possibly a small in-line UV treatment system (dependent on contaminant concentrations) prior to treatment at the plume-front

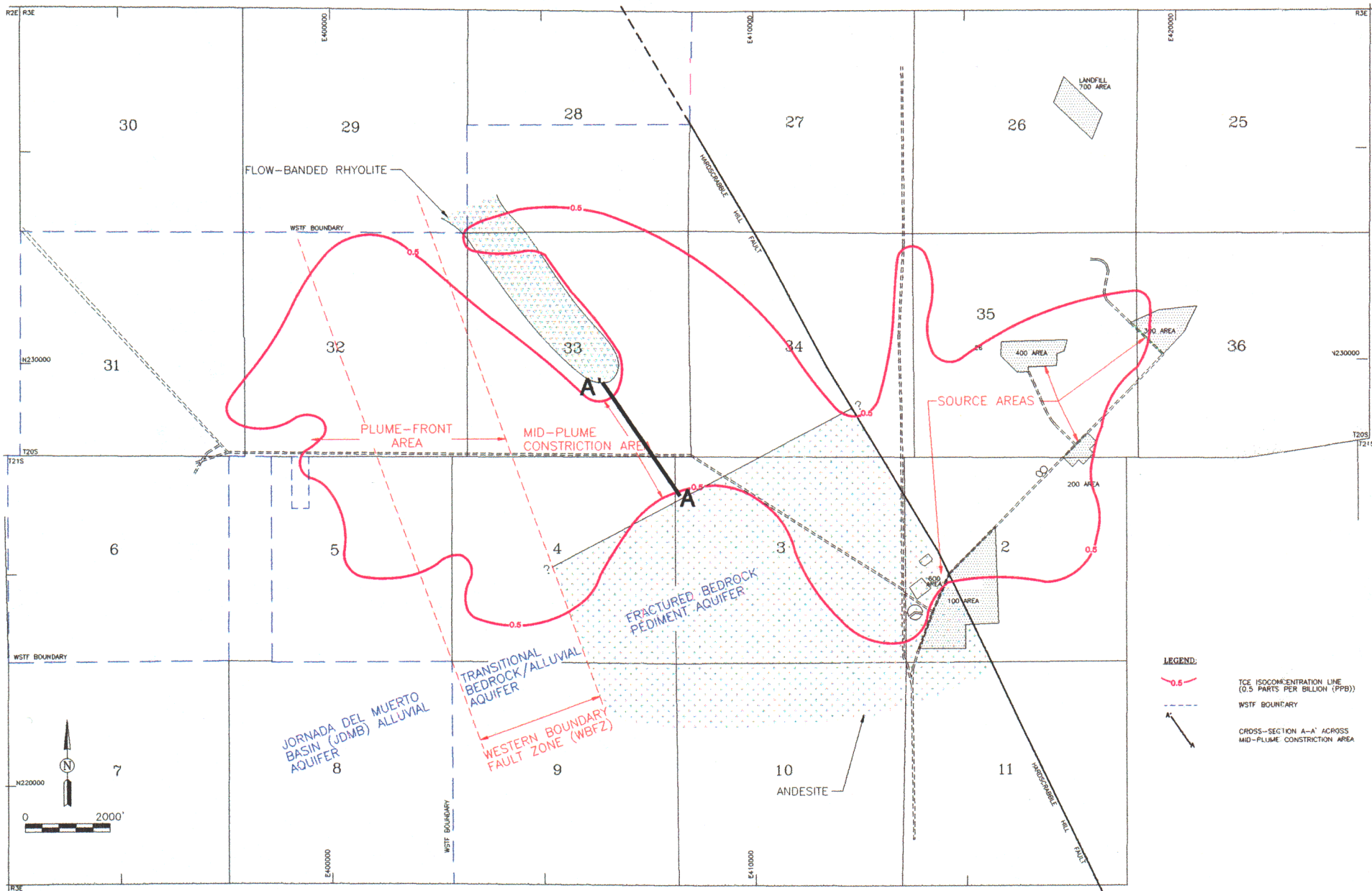


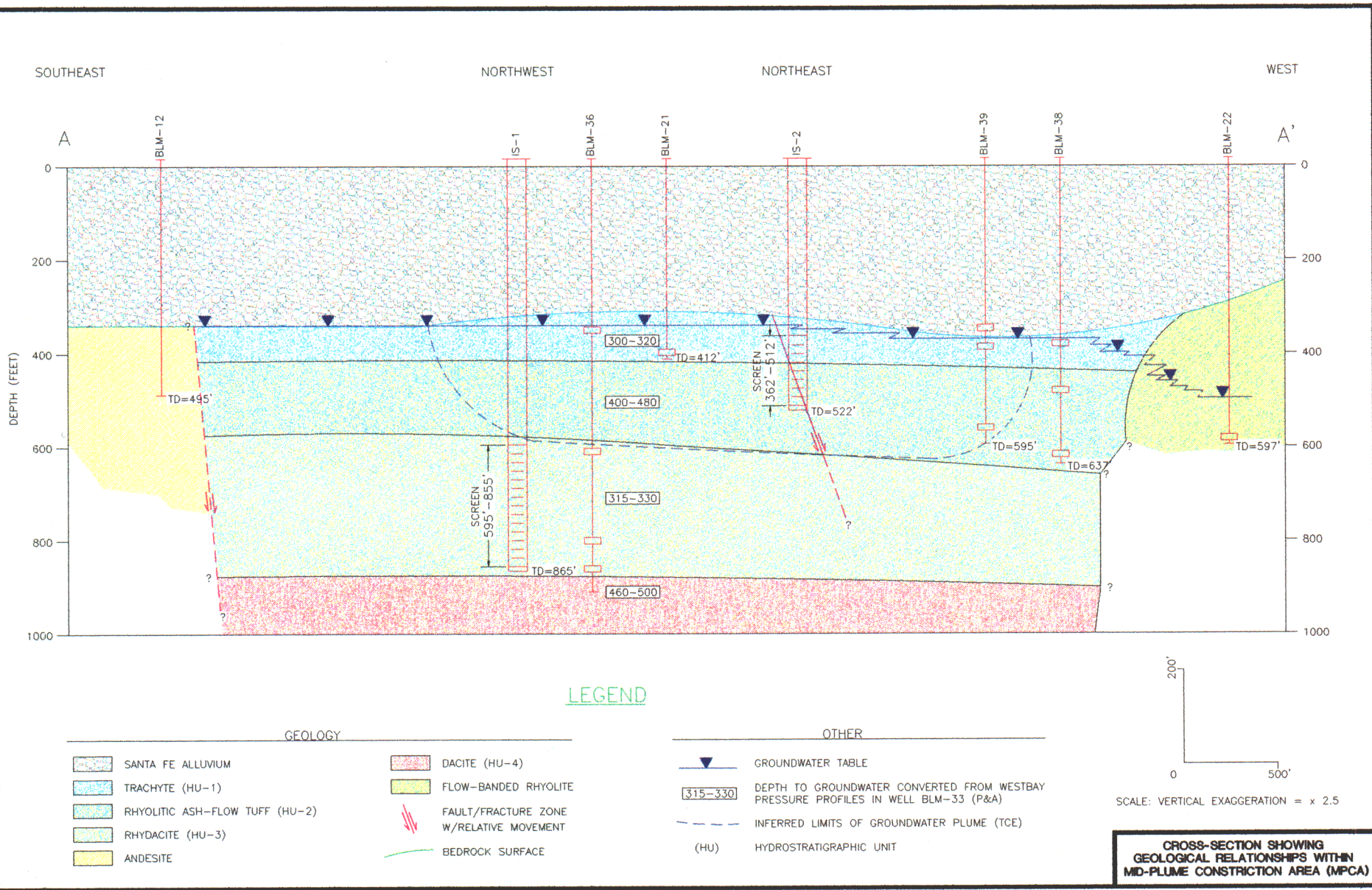
MPCA GOALS

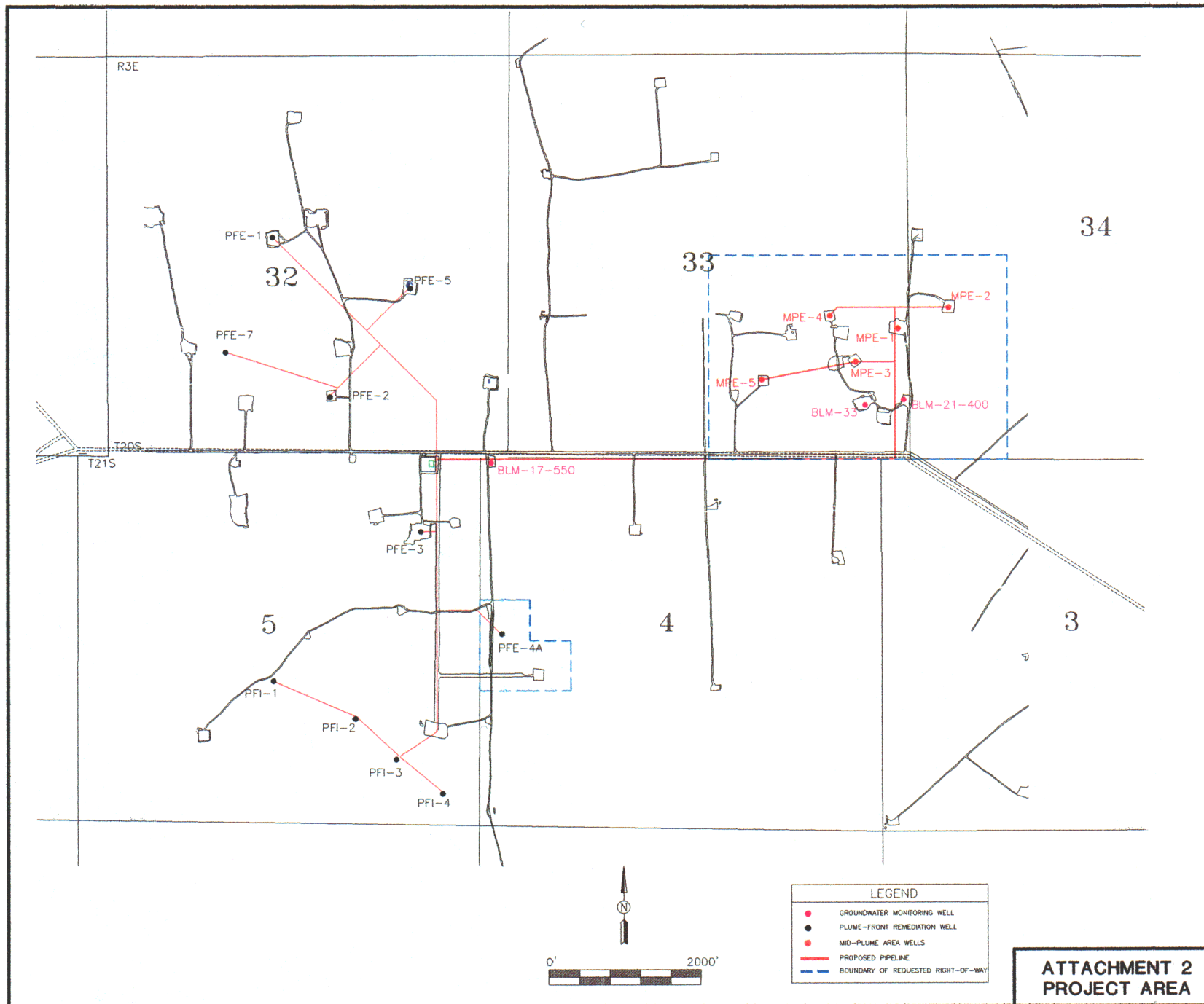
- Isolate the supply of groundwater contaminants from WSTF source areas to the plume-front. The primary health-risk contaminants remain upgradient of the MPCA
- Reduce required operational time for plume-front stabilization system
- Achieve stabilization of northwest-trending contamination in the MPCA
- Enable the removal of significant contaminant mass from the groundwater plume due to elevated contaminant concentrations

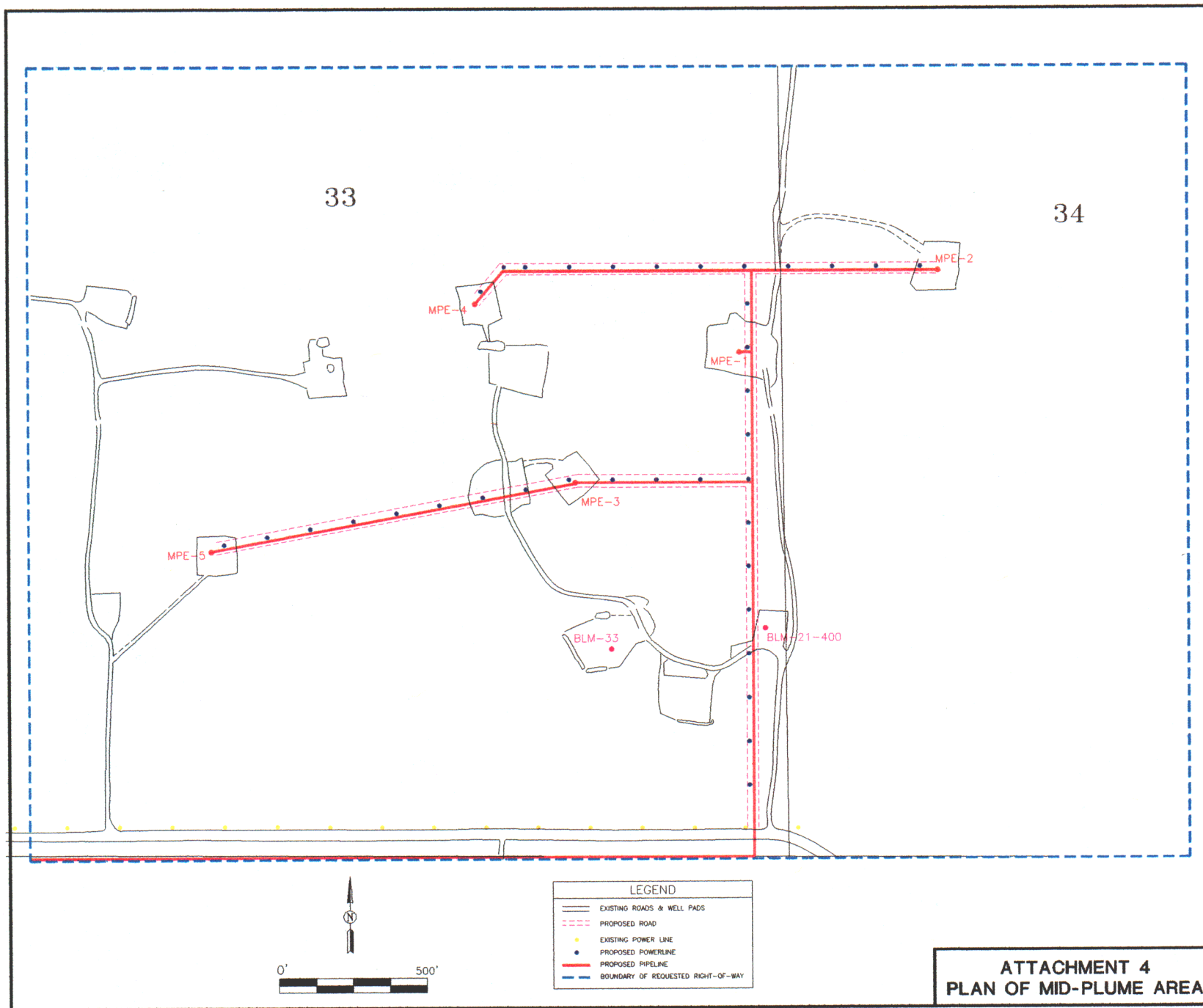










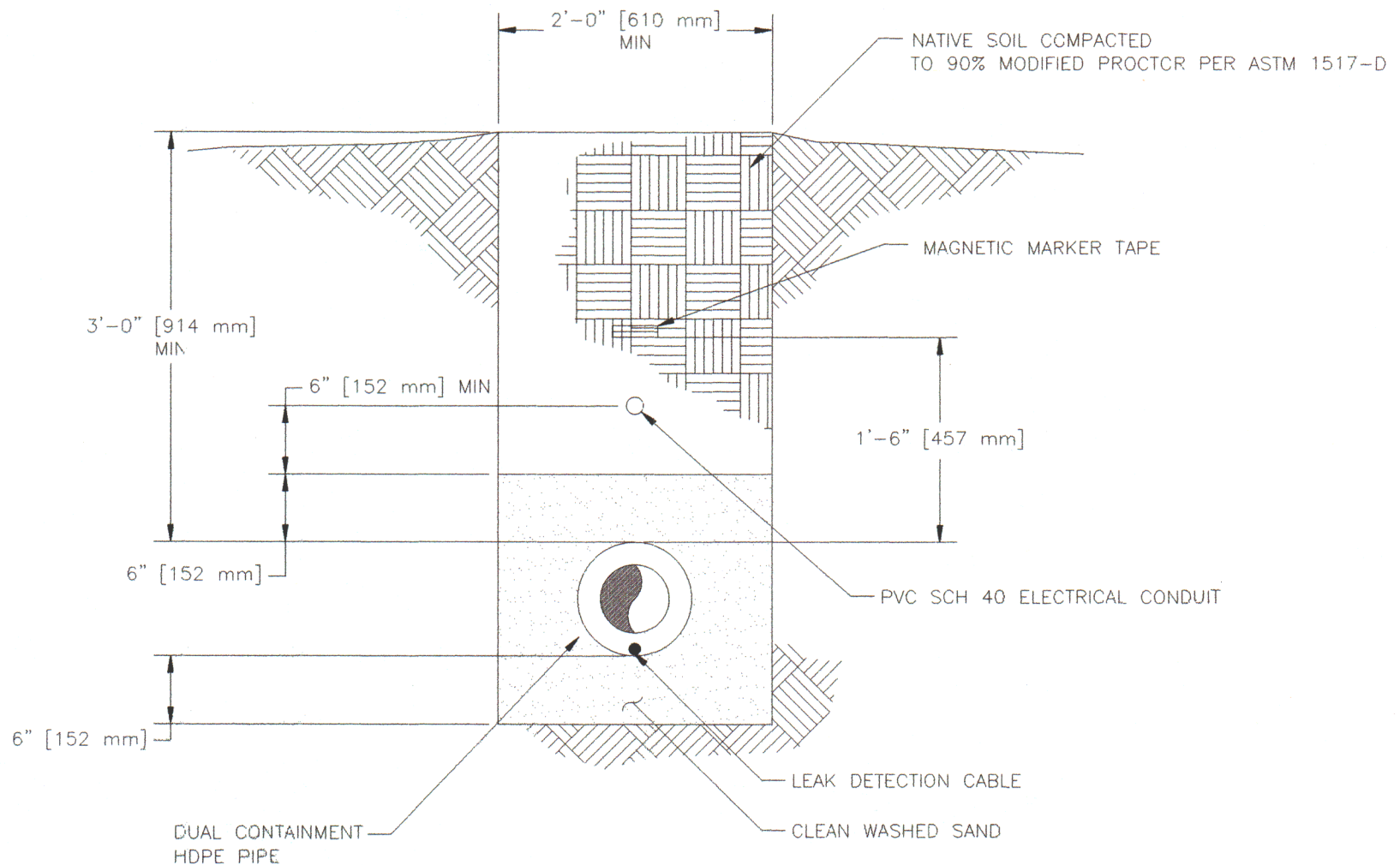


ATTACHMENT 4
PLAN OF MID-PLUME AREA

	NDMA (ppt)	DMN (ppt)	TCE (ppb)	PCE (ppb)	Approx Flow (gpm)
MPE-1	5,300	1,566	78	2.6	16
MPE-2	ND	ND	ND	ND	5
MPE-3	8,630	3,210	98	3.8	4
MPE-4	3,600	2,030	46	1.8	4
MPE-5	3,170	1,120	130	3.8	2

Trench Length: ~ 6750 feet

Design Flow Rate: 80 gpm maximum



SECTION: TRENCH AT DUAL CONTAINMENT

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

Richard Cole, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the General Manager of the Las Cruces Sun-News, a newspaper published daily in the county of Dona Ana, State of New Mexico; that the notice 27168 per clipping attached was published once a week/day in regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof for 1 consecutive days, the first publication was in the issue dated January 18, 2002 and the last publication was January 18, 2002.

Deponent further states this newspaper is duly qualified to publish legal notices or advertisements within the meaning of Sec. Chapter 167, Laws of 1937.

Signed

Richard E Cole

General Manager
Official Position

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

SS.

County of Dona Ana

Subscribed and sworn before me this

29 day of January
2002

Cecilia P. Rangel

My Term Expires

September 14, 2005

Notary Public in and for Dona Ana
County, New Mexico

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

AGENCY:
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
White Sands Test Facility
Las Cruces, New Mexico

ACTION:
Fabrication and operation of a mid-plume groundwater remediation system including extraction wells, above ground and sub-grade piping, roads, powerlines, and a possible pre-treatment facility.

SUMMARY:
Based on the Mid-Plume Constriction Area Remediation Project Environmental Assessment, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

DATE:
January 18, 2002

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:
Joseph Fries
Manager
NASA White Sands Test Facility

ADDRESS:
NASA White Sands Test Facility
P.O. Box 20
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Michael Zigmund, P.E.
Environmental Program Manager (Acting)
NASA White Sands Test Facility
(505) 524-5484
Fax: (505) 524-5798
E-mail: mzigmond@wstf.nasa.gov

BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:
The NASA White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) intends to install a series of four extraction wells, above ground and sub-grade piping, electrical supply facilities, access roads, and a possible pre-treatment substation in the mid-plume constriction area (MPCA) on NASA, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and State of New Mexico (NM) land adjacent to the NASA White Sands Test Facility (WSTF). This proposed MPCA remediation project would effectively remove contaminant mass at the mid-plume location, isolate the plume-front area from upgradient source area contaminants, intercept and mitigate westward contaminant transport, contain the northwest trending contaminant lobe, and minimize ecological and human health risks to potential receptors. The system is anticipated to be operational by Fall 2004. Contaminant treatment standards for the injected water have been developed following standards and guidelines from Federal and State regulatory sources. WSTF is located approximately 16 miles northeast of Las Cruces, New Mexico. The proposed project's location is in Sections 33 and 34 of T20S, R3E, and Sections 3, 4, and 5 of T21S, R3E.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:
NASA has considered the alternatives of full-scale groundwater remediation and no-action. At this time, full-scale remediation is not viable due to regulatory issues concerning plume-front contaminant migration, the extensive groundwater contamination plume boundaries, and hydrogeological concerns regarding remediation in fractured bedrock. The no-action alternative is not viable because it would not isolate source area contamination from the plume-front area, contaminant mass would not be remediated, the plume would continue to migrate through the MPCA, and the northwest trending contaminant lobe would not be abated. The Environmental Assessment (EA) provides information concerning each alternative.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:
Environmental aspects were examined pertaining to the following areas: land use, energy, groundwater quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, air, and geology and soils. The following section summarizes the conclusions for relevant environmental issues:

Land use - Additional wells, well pads, roads, above ground and sub-grade piping, and powerlines with poles would be needed to support this proposal. Using existing facilities where applicable would minimize these actions. After construction, any disturbed land that will not be used on a regular basis would be reseeded according to suggestions from the BLM.

Energy - The MPCA extraction wells and pretreatment remediation system (if necessary) would not increase the energy requirements that were previously estimated for the operation of the plume-front remediation project. The previously published Plume-Front Remediation System EA included the future energy requirements of installing and connecting an MPCA remediation system to the plume-front system. The Plume-Front Remediation EA estimated a site-wide annual energy increase of approximately 8,900,000 kilowatt-hours at an estimated cost of \$500,000 for the operation of both the plume-front and MPCA remediation systems.

Groundwater Quality - Groundwater quality at the project area would be significantly enhanced. The MPCA remediation project would effectively remove contaminant mass at the mid-plume location, isolate the plume-front area from upgradient source area contaminant, intercept and mitigate westward contaminant transport, contain the northwest trending contaminant lobe, and minimize ecological and human health risks to potential receptors.

Biological resources - The proposed project area has no habitat critical to the survival or reproduction of any listed species of plant or animal. This was observed during a threatened and endangered species survey. Additionally, there are no areas nearby that are considered highly sensitive or moderately sensitive that could be affected by the proposed action. However, wells, well pads, roads, pipes, and powerlines with poles would be needed to support this proposal. Using existing facilities in all applicable instances would minimize these actions.

Cultural resources - During the implementation phase, there is a possibility of unearthing archeological resources. An archeological survey has been completed for the affected area. If any undocumented or previously undiscovered archeological site were uncovered during construction, site construction would cease until historic preservation issues are resolved. No known archeological sites would be endangered or disturbed by the proposed project.

Noise - Construction activities are expected to be completed intermittently over a one year period. An additional four extraction wells would be drilled, each lasting approximately 10 days. Ecological impacts from well installation activities, remedial system construction, increased vehicular traffic, and system operation are expected to be negligible.

Air - Environmental impacts to air quality will be minimal. The NMED Air Quality Bureau does not regulate emissions from remediation activities and the emission quantities from air stripping activities are well below RCRA-related permit thresholds (Subparts AA, BB, and CC).

Geology and soils - A minor concern exists with an increase of wind or water erosion of soils during the construction phase. This is unlikely to transform the topographic conditions within the proposed area.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
An Environmental Assessment that supports the Finding of No Significant Impact is available for public review at the Branigan Library (200 East Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, NM; Reference Desk). A public meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 25, 2002, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Dress Room of the Branigan Library. All comments are invited for consideration by the NASA Environmental Program Manager within 30 calendar days of this notice. Address all correspondence to:

NASA White Sands Test Facility
Attn: Michael Zigmund
P.O. Box 20
Las Cruces, NM 88004

LA ADMINISTRACION NACIONAL DE LA AERONAUTICA Y EL ESPACIO

El Acto De Poliza Nacional De Aeronautica Y El Espacio. Ningun Impacto Significativo (FONSI)

LA AGENCIA:
La Administración Nacional de la Aeronáutica y el Espacio (NASA)
Facilidad de Pruebas en Las Arenas Blancas

330 LEGAL NOTICES

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

National Environmental Policy Act: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

AGENCY:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
White Sands Test Facility
Las Cruces, New Mexico

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January 18, 2002

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

Joseph Fries
Manager
NASA White Sands Test Facility

ADDRESS:

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Zigmund, P.E.
Environmental Program Manager (Acting)
NASA White Sands Test Facility
(505) 524-5484
Fax: (505) 524-5798
E-mail: mzigmond@wsf.nasa.gov

BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

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ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

NASA has considered the alternatives of full-scale groundwater remediation and no-action. At this time, full-scale remediation is not viable due to regulatory issues concerning plume-front contaminant migration, the extensive groundwater contamination plume boundaries, and hydrogeological concerns regarding remediation in fractured bedrock. The no-action alternative is not viable because it would not isolate source area contamination from the plume-front area, contaminant mass would not be remediated, the plume would continue to migrate through the MPCA, and the northwest trending contaminant lobe would not be abated. The Environmental Assessment (EA) provides information concerning each alternative.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

Environmental aspects were examined pertaining to the following areas: land use, energy, groundwater quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, air, and geology and soils. The following section summarizes the conclusions for relevant environmental issues:

Land use - Additional wells, well pads, roads, above ground and sub-grade piping, and powerlines with poles would be needed to support this proposal. Using existing facilities where applicable would minimize these actions. After construction, any disturbed land that will not be used on a regular basis would be reseeded according to suggestions from the BLM.

Energy - The MPCA extraction wells and pretreatment remediation system (if necessary) would not increase the energy requirements that were previously estimated for the operation of the plume-front remediation project. The previously published Plume-Front Remediation System EA included the future energy requirements of installing and connecting an MPCA remediation system to the plume-front system. The Plume-Front Remediation EA estimated a site-wide annual energy increase of approximately 8,900,000 kilowatt-hours at an estimated cost of \$500,000 for the operation of both the plume-front and MPCA remediation systems.

Groundwater Quality - Groundwater quality at the project area would be significantly enhanced. The MPCA remediation project would effectively remove contaminant mass at the mid-plume location, isolate the plume-front area from upgradient source area contaminant, intercept and mitigate westward contaminant transport, contain the northwest trending contaminant lobe, and minimize ecological and human health risks to potential receptors.

Biological resources - The proposed project area has no habitat critical to the survival or reproduction of any listed species of plant or animal. This was observed during a threatened and endangered species survey. Additionally, there are no areas nearby that are considered highly sensitive or moderately sensitive that could be affected by the proposed action. However, wells, well pads, roads, pipes, and powerlines with poles would be needed to support this proposal. Using existing facilities in all applicable instances would minimize these actions.

Cultural resources - During the implementation phase, there is a possibility of unearthing archeological resources. An archeological survey has been completed for the affected area. If any undocumented or previously undiscovered archeological site were uncovered during construction, site construction would cease until historic preservation issues are resolved. No known archeological sites would be endangered or disturbed by the proposed project.

Noise - Construction activities are expected to be completed intermittently over a one year period. An additional four extraction wells would be drilled, each lasting approximately 10 days. Ecological impacts from well installation activities, remedial system construction, increased vehicular traffic, and system operation are expected to be negligible.

Air - Environmental impacts to air quality will be minimal. The NMED Air Quality Bureau does not regulate emissions from remediation activities and the emission quantities from air stripping activities are well below RCRA-related permit thresholds (Subparts AA, BB, and CC).

Geology and soils - A minor concern exists with an increase of wind or water erosion of soils during the construction phase. This is unlikely to transform the topographic conditions within the proposed area.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

An Environmental Assessment that supports the Finding of No Significant Impact is available for public review at the Branigan Library (200 East Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, NM; Reference Desk). A public meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 25, 2002, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Dress Room of the Branigan Library. All comments are invited for consideration by the NASA Environmental Program Manager within 30 calendar days of this notice. Address all correspondence to:

NASA White Sands Test Facility
Attn: Michael Zigmund
P.O. Box 20
Las Cruces, NM 88004

LA ADMINISTRACION NACIONAL DE LA AERONAUTICA Y EL ESPACIO

El Acto De Poliza Nacional De Entorno; Encuentra Ningún Impacto Significativo (FONSI).

LA AGENCIA:

La Administración Nacional de la Aeronáutica y el Espacio (NASA)
Facilidad de Pruebas en Las Arenas Blancas
Las Cruces, Nuevo México

LA ACCION:

La fabricación y la operación de un sistema de plume medio de refuerzo de groundwater inclusive pozos de extracción, sobre tierra y tubería sub grado, los caminos, powerlines, y posiblemente una facilidad de pretreatmento.

EL RESUMEN:

Basado en el Proyecto Remediaci6n en el Accesoramiento De Entorno y en la area de Area de Constricci6n de Plume Medio. Una Declaraci6n De Impacto en el Entorno no se requiere.

LA FECHA:

El 18 de Enero de 2002

EL OFICIAL RESPONSABLE:

Joseph Fries
Director
NASA la Facilidad de Prueba en las Arenas Blancas

LA DIRECCION:

NASA White Sands Test Facility
P.O. Box 20
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

PARA EL CONTACTO ADICIONAL DE INFORMACION:

Michael Zigmund, P.E.
Director (actuaci6n) del Programa de Entorno
NASA La Facilidad de Pruebas en Las Arenas Blancas
(505) 524-5484
Fax: (505) 524-5798
CORREO ELECTRONICO: mzigmond@wsf.nasa.gov

ANTECEDENTES Y DESCRIPCION DE ACCION PROPUESTA:

NASA Facilidad de Pruebas en Las Arenas Blancas (WSTF) piensa instalar una serie de pozos de extracci6n(4), sobre tierra y tubería sub grado, facilidades eléctricas WSTF suministro, caminos acceso, y posiblemente una substation de pretreatmento en la area de constricci6n (MPCA) de plume media en NASA, Oficina de Administraci6n de Tierras(BLM), y El Estado de nuevo méxico (NM) aterrizan adyacente al NASA Facilidad de Pruebas Las Arenas Blancas. Este proyecto propuesto del refuerzo de MPCA quitaría efectivamente contaminante en mesa en la ubicaci6n de plume media, aislaría la área anterior de plume del contaminante de área de fuente de upgradient, interceptaría y mitigaría hacia el oeste transporte de contaminant, contendría el l6bulo del noroeste de contaminant de trending, y aminoraría los riesgos ecol6gicos y de salud humanos y a posiblle receptores. El sistema se anticipa ser operacional en el Otoño del año 2004. Los estándares del tratamiento del Contaminant del agua inyectada se han desarrollado siguiendo los estándares y guías Estatales y Federales. WSTF se localiza aproximadamente 16 millas al noreste de Las Cruces, nuevo méxico. La ubicaci6n propuesta del proyecto está en la Secci6n 33 y 34 de T20S, en R3E, y en las Secciones 3, 4, y 5 de T21S, R3E.

LAS ALTERNATIVAS CONSIDERADAS:

NASA ha considerado las alternativas, del refuerzo de la escala repleta de groundwater y ninguna acci6n. En este tiempo, el refuerzo de la escala repleta no es viable debido a asuntos regulativos con respecto a la migraci6n anterior de plume de contaminant, las fronteras extensas de plume de contaminaci6n de groundwater, y hidrogeológico problemático considerando refuerzo en la roca de fondo fracturada. La alternativa de no tomar acci6n no es viable porque no aislaría la fuente de la área de contaminaci6n del anterior de plume, masa de contaminant no se remediated, el plume continuaría emigrar por el MPCA, y por el l6bulo del noroeste de contaminant de trending no sería disminuido. La Evaluaci6n De Entorno (C U) proporciona informaci6n con respecto a cada alternativa.

LOS EFECTOS POSIBLES DE ENTORNO:

Los aspectos de entorno se examinaron perteneciendo a las áreas siguientes: utilizaci6n de la tierra, la energía, la calidad de groundwater, los recursos biol6gicos, los recursos culturales, el ruido, aire, y la geología y las tierras. La secci6n siguiente resume las conclusiones para asuntos de entorno pertinentes.

Utilizaci6n de la Tierra - Los pozos adicionales, almohadillas, los caminos, encima de tierra y tubería sub grado, v

330 LEGAL NOTICES

County on February 19, 1998 and recorded in Book 19 at Pages 60-61, Plat Records.

Known also as 3194 Athenian Way, Las Cruces, NM.

The sale is to satisfy the above Judgment, together with all costs and amounts due as follows: Amount of the Judgment with interest and costs to date of sale \$104,897.16 Estimated costs of publishing Notice of Foreclosure Sale \$ 3 0 0 . 0 0 Special Master Fee \$150.00 TOTAL \$105,347.16

This sale shall be subject to the Defendants' right of redemption within one month from the date of the sale as provided in the Judgment.

WITNESS my hand and seal this 16th day of January, 2002.

/s/Bernadette Sedillo

Steven P. Fisher
SANDERS, BRUIN,
COLL & WORLEY, P.A.
P.O. Box 550
Roswell, New Mexico
88201
(505) 622-5440

Pub. No. 27172
Publish: January 18, 25,
February 1, 8, 2002

THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU ON THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

NOTICE OF A 60-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS FOR PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) invites the public to comment on draft revisions to the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The WQMP document is a statewide planning tool developed to ensure that long-range goals of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (a.k.a. Clean Water Act) are met. These goals include "restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nations waters." The WQMP establishes a process that assures continuous planning for and implementation of pollution control measures.

A series of meetings will be held to present a summary of proposed revisions and to field questions from the public. Meetings will be held as follows:

February 4, 2002: Las Cruces, NM. Water Resources Research Institute Conference Room, New Mexico State University Campus Stucky Hall (S. Espina St.), 6:30-9:00 p.m.

February 5, 2002: Roswell, NM. Eastern New Mexico University Ranch Campus, Campus Union Building, Multi-purpose Room 110, 48 University Blvd., 6:30-9:00 p.m.

February 6, 2002: Santa Fe, NM. New Mexico Environment Department, Harold Runnels Bldg. Auditorium, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

February 7, 2002: Farmington, NM. Farmington Civic Center, Exhibition Hall, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

The 60 day comment period begins January 18, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. and will end March 19, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. MST. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record should be submitted to the SWQB in writing at the meetings or to the address below (if possible, please submit an electronic copy as well). The SWQB will approach the

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330 LEGAL NOTICES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Dona Ana County Development Department will conduct public hearings on proposed plans for Las Cruces Public Schools board redistricting as follows:

Saturday, January 26, 2002, 9:30 a.m., Onate High School Library, 6800 N.E. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico;

Tuesday, January 29, 2002, 5:30 p.m., Las Cruces Public Schools Administration Office Board Room, 505 S. Main Street, Las Cruces, New Mexico;

Thursday, January 31, 2002, 5:30 p.m., Mayfield High School media center, 1955 N. Valley Drive, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

DATED at Las Cruces, New Mexico, January 18, 2002.

/s/Leonel Brisenio;
Secretary
Board of Education
Las Cruces Public Schools

Pub. No. 27165
Publish: January 18, 2002

330 LEGAL NOTICES
Council on Technology in Education

In compliance with state regulations and the Council on Technology in Education Act procedures, a Council Meeting has been scheduled for January 28, 2002. Meeting will be held at the Radisson Santa Fe 750 N. St. Francis Dr. Santa Fe, NM from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Council members will then be meeting with State Legislators from 12:00pm-4:00pm at the State Capitol Building. Please RSVP with Steven Sanchez or Lea Larranaga at (505) 827-7354 or via e-mail at llarranaga@sde.state.nm.us

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact Lea Larranaga at (505) 827-7354, or TDD (505) 827-6541 by January 23, 2002. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible forms. Please contact Lea Larranaga if a summary or other type of accessible form is needed.

Pub. No. 27162
Publish: January 16, 17, 18, 2002

330 LEGAL NOTICES
STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF DONA ANA IN THE PROBATE COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN ALBERT ARTMAN, Deceased.

Cause No. PB 02-3
Judge Olivia Nevarez-Garcia

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate. All persons having claims against this estate are required to present their claims within two months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to the undersigned Personal Representative at P.O. Box 578, Las Cruces, New Mexico, or filed with the Dona Ana County Probate Court.

DATED: January 3, 2002.

/s/Gregory C. Artman,
Personal Representative

MODRALL, SPERLING, ROEHL, HARRIS & SISK, P.A.
John A. Darden
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 578
Las Cruces, New Mexico
88004-0578
(505) 526-6655
(505) 526-6656 (fax)

Pub. No. 27110
Publish: January 11, 18, 2002

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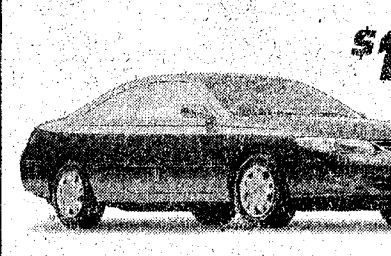
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mass must not be remediated, the plume would continue to migrate through the MPCA and the northeast trending contaminant lobe would not be abated. The Environmental Assessment (EA) provides information concerning each alternative.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

Environmental aspects were examined pertaining to the following areas: land use, energy, groundwater quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, air, and geology and soils. The following section summarizes the conclusions for relevant environmental issues:

Land use - Additional wells, well pads, roads, above ground and sub-grade piping, and powerlines with poles would be needed to support this proposal. Using existing facilities where applicable would minimize these actions. After construction, any disturbed land that will not be used on a regular basis would be reseeded according to suggestions from the BLM.

Energy - The MPCA extraction wells and pretreatment remediation system (if necessary) would not increase the energy requirements that were previously estimated for the operation of the plume-front remediation project. The previously published Plume-Front Remediation System EA included the future energy requirements of installing and connecting an MPCA remediation system to the plume-front system. The Plume-Front Remediation EA estimated a site-wide annual energy increase of approximately 8,900,000 kilowatt-hours at an estimated cost of \$500,000 for the operation of both the plume-front and MPCA remediation systems.

Groundwater Quality - Groundwater quality at the project area would be significantly enhanced. The MPCA remediation project would effectively remove contaminant mass at the mid-plume location, isolate the plume-front area from upgradient source area contaminant, intercept and mitigate westward contaminant transport, contain the northwest trending contaminant lobe, and minimize ecological and human health risks to potential receptors.

Biological resources - The proposed project area has no habitat critical to the survival or reproduction of any listed species of plant or animal. This was observed during a threatened and endangered species survey. Additionally, there are no areas nearby that are considered highly sensitive or moderately sensitive that could be affected by the proposed action. However, wells, well pads, roads, pipes, and powerlines with poles would be needed to support this proposal. Using existing facilities in all applicable instances would minimize these actions.

Cultural resources - During the implementation phase, there is a possibility of unearthing archeological resources. An archeological survey has been completed for the affected area. If any undocumented or previously undiscovered archeological site were uncovered during construction, site construction would cease until historic preservation issues are resolved. No known archeological sites would be endangered or disturbed by the proposed project.

Noise - Construction activities are expected to be completed intermittently over a one year period. An additional four extraction wells would be drilled, each lasting approximately 10 days. Ecological impacts from well installation activities, remedial system construction, increased vehicular traffic, and system operation are expected to be negligible.

Air - Environmental impacts to air quality will be minimal. The NMED Air Quality Bureau does not regulate emissions from remediation activities and the emission quantities from air stripping activities are well below RCRA-related permit thresholds (Subparts AA, BB, and CC).

Geology and soils - A minor concern exists with an increase of wind or water erosion of soils during the construction phase. This is unlikely to transform the topographic conditions within the proposed area.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

An Environmental Assessment that supports the Finding of No Significant Impact is available for public review at the Branigan Library (200 East Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, NM; Reference Desk). A public meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 25, 2002, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Dresp Room of the Branigan Library. All comments are invited for consideration by the NASA Environmental Program Manager within 30 calendar days of this notice. Address all correspondence to:

NASA White Sands Test Facility
Attn: Michael Zigmund
P.O. Box 20
Las Cruces, NM 88004

LA ADMINISTRACION NACIONAL DE LA AERONAUTICA Y EL ESPACIO

El Acto De Poliza Nacional De Entorno: Encuentra Ningún Impacto Significativo (FONSI).

LA AGENCIA:
La Administración Nacional de la Aeronáutica y el Espacio (NASA)
Facilidad de Pruebas en Las Arenas Blancas
Las Cruces, Nuevo México

LA ACCION:

La fabricación y la operación de un sistema de plume medio de refuerzo de groundwater inclusive pozos de extracción, sobre tierra y tubería sub grado, los caminos, powerlines, y posiblemente una facilidad de pretratamiento.

EL RESUMEN:

Basado en el Proyecto Remediaci6n en el Acesoamiento De Entorno y en la arca de Area de Constricci6n de Plume Medio. Una Declaraci6n De Impacto en el Entorno no se requiere.

LA FECHA:

El 18 de Enero de 2002

El OFICIAL RESPONSABLE:

Joseph Fries -
Director
NASA La Facilidad de Prueba en las Arenas Blancas

LA DIRECCION:

NASA White Sands Test Facility
P. O. Box 20
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

PARA EL CONTACTO ADICIONAL DE INFORMACION:

Michael Zigmund, P. E.
Director (actuaci6n) del Programa de Entorno
NASA La Facilidad de Pruebas en Las Arenas Blancas
(505) 524-5484
Fax: (505) 524-5798
CORREO ELECTRONICO: mzigmond@wsf.nasa.gov

ANTECEDENTES Y DESCRIPCION DE ACCION PROPUESTA:

NASA Facilidad de Pruebas en Las Arenas Blancas (WSF) piensa instalar una serie de pozos de extracci6n(4), sobre tierra y tubería sub grado, facilidades eléctricas WSTF suministro, caminos acceso, y posiblemente una substacion de pretratamiento en la arca de constricci6n (MPCA) de plume media en NASA, Oficina de Administraci6n de Tierras(BLM), y El Estado de nuevo méxico (NM) aterrizan adyacente al NASA Facilidad de Pruebas Las Arenas Blancas. Este proyecto propuesto del refuerzo de MPCA quitaría efectivamente contaminante en masa en la ubicaci6n de plume-media, aislaría la arca anterior de plume del contaminante de arca de fuente de upgradient, interceptaría y mitigaría hacia el oeste transporte de contaminant, contendría el l6bulo del noroeste de contaminant de trending, y aminoraría los riesgos ecol6gicos y de salud humanos y a posible receptores. El sistema se anticipa ser operacional en el Otono del ano 2004. Los estándares del tratamiento del Contaminant del agua inyectada se han desarrollado siguiendo los estándares y guías Eatales y Federales. WSTF se localiza aproximadamente 16 millas al noroeste de Las Cruces, nuevo méxico. La ubicaci6n propuesta del proyecto está en la Secci6n 33 y 34 de T20S, en R3E, y en las Secciones 3, 4, y 5 de T21S, R3E.

LAS ALTERNATIVAS CONSIDERADAS:

NASA ha considerado las alternativas, del refuerzo de la escala repleta de groundwater y ninguna acci6n. En este tiempo, el refuerzo de la escala repleta no es viable debido a asuntos regulativos con respecto a la migraci6n anterior de plume de contaminant, las fronteras extensas de plume de contaminaci6n de groundwater, y hidrogeol6gico problematico considerando refuerzo en la roca de fondo fracturada. La alternativa de no tomar acci6n no es viable porque no aislaría la fuente de la arca de continuaci6n del anterior de plume, masa de contaminant no se remediada, el plume continuaría emigrar por el MPCA, y por el l6bulo del noroeste de contaminant de trending no sería disminuido. La Evaluaci6n De Entorno (C U) proporciona informaci6n con respecto a cada alternativa.

LOS EFECTOS POSIBLES DE ENTORNO:

Los aspectos de entorno se examinaron perteneciendo a las áreas siguientes: utilizaci6n de la tierra, la energí, la calidad de groundwater, los recursos biol6gicos, los recursos culturales, el ruido, aire, y la geología y las tierras. La secci6n siguiente resume las conclusiones para asuntos de entorno pertinentes:

Utilizaci6n de la Tierra - Los pozos adicionales, almohadillas, los caminos, encima de tierra y tubería sub grado, y powerlines con astas se necesitarían para sostener esta propuesta. Usar las facilidades que existen donde se es aplicable aminoraría estas acciones. Después de la construcci6n, cualquier tierra perturbada que no se usará en una base regular sería restituir segun sugerencias del BLM.

La Energí - Los pozos de la extracci6n de MPCA y sistema de refuerzo de pretratamiento (si necesario) no aumentarían los requisitos de la energí que se estimaron previamente para la operaci6n del proyecto anterior de plume de refuerzo. El Sistema Anterior de Plume previamente publicado del Refuerzo incluyó los requisitos futuros de la energí (C U) de instalar y conectar un sistema del refuerzo de MPCA al sistema anterior del plume. El Refuerzo Anterior de Plume estimó C U un aumento anual de la energí de aproximadamente 8,900,000 kilovatios-horas en un costo estimado de \$500,000 para la operaci6n de ambas la anterior de plume y sistemas de refuerzo de MPCA.

La Calidad de Groundwater - La calidad de groundwater en la arca de proyecto se aumentaría significativamente. El proyecto del refuerzo de MPCA quitaría efectivamente masa contaminant en la ubicaci6n de plume media, aislaría la arca anterior de plume del contaminant de arca de fuente de upgradient, interceptaría y mitigaría hacia el oeste transporte de contaminant, contendría el l6bulo del noroeste de contaminant, y aminoraría los riesgos ecol6gicos y salud humana y los posibles receptores.

Los Recursos Biol6gicos - El área propuesta de proyecto no tiene habitat crítico a la sobrevivencia ni la reproducci6n de cualquiera especie de la planta o animal en lista. Esto se observó durante una inspecci6n de las especies de animales que esten bajo amenaza o en peligro de desaparecer. Adicionalmente, no hay áreas cercanas que son consideradas altamente sensible o moderadamente sensible que podrían ser afectadas por la acci6n propuesta. Sin embargo, los pozos, almohadillas, los caminos, los tubos, y powerlines con astas se necesitarían sostener esta propuesta. Usando las facilidades en existencia en casos aplicables aminoraría estas acciones.

Los Recursos Culturales - Durante la fase de la implementaci6n, hay una posibilidad de desenterrar los recursos de arqueol6gicos. Una inspecci6n de arqueol6gica se ha completado en el área afectada. Si se descubre o se destapa un sitio arqueol6gico que no se a documentado previamente durante la construcci6n, la construcci6n del sitio cesaría hasta que los asuntos históricos de la conservaci6n se resuelvan. Ningún sitio conocido arqueol6gicamente se pondría en peligro ni será perturbado por el proyecto propuesto.

El Ruido - Las actividades de la construcci6n se esperan ser completadas intermitentemente sobre el período de un año. Los cuatro pozos adicionales de extracci6n se taladrarán, duraci6n de aproximadamente 10 dias cada uno de los pozos. Los impactos ecol6gicos de actividades en instalaci6n de pozo, la construcci6n correctiva de sistema, el aumento de trafico de vehiculos, y la operaci6n de sistema se esperan ser insignificante.

Aire - Los impactos de entorno a la calidad aerea serían minimos. El NMED las Oficina Calidad Aerea no regula las emisiones de actividades de refuerzo y las cantidades de emisi6n de actividad en el aire estan bien debajo de umbrales relacionados de RCRA de permiso (Subparts AA, BB, y CC).

La Geología y las Tierras - UN menor concierne existe con un aumento de la erosi6n de viento o agua de tierras durante la fase de la construcci6n. Esto improbablemente puede transformar las condiciones de topographic dentro del área propuesta.

El COMENTARIO PUBLICO:

La Evaluaci6n De Entorno que sostiene el Encuentro de Ningún Impacto Significativo está disponible para la revisi6n pública en la Biblioteca de Branigan (200 Avenida Oriental de Picacho, Las Cruces, NM; Escritorio de Referencia). Una junta para el público esta programada para el viernes, 25 de enero de 2002, de 4:00 de la tarde a 6:00 de la tarde en la Habitación Dresp de la Biblioteca de Branigan. Todo comentario es invitado para la consideraci6n del Director del Programa De Entorno de NASA dentro de 30 dias de calendario de esta nota. Diriga toda correspondencia a:

NASA White Sands Test Facility
Attn: Michael Zigmund
P. O. Box 20
Las Cruces, NM 88004

Pub. No. 27168
Publish: January 18, 2002

COLL & WORLEY, P.A.
P.O. Box 550
Roswell, New Mexico
88201
(505) 622-5440

Pub. No. 27172
Publish: January 18, 25,
February 1, 8, 2002

THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, SURFACE WATER QUALITY BUREAU ON THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

NOTICE OF A 60-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS FOR PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE STATEWIDE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED), Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) invites the public to comment on draft revisions to the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The WQMP document is a statewide planning tool developed to ensure that long-range goals of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (a.k.a. Clean Water Act) are met. These goals include "restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nations waters." The WQMP establishes a process that assures continuous planning for and implementation of pollution control measures.

A series of meetings will be held to present a summary of proposed revisions and to field questions from the public. Meetings will be held as follows:

February 4, 2002: Las Cruces, NM. Water Resources Research Institute Conference Room, New Mexico State University Campus, Stucky Hall (S. Espina St.), 6:30-9:00 p.m.

February 5, 2002: Roswell, NM. Eastern New Mexico University Ranch Campus, Campus Union Building, Multi-purpose Room 110, 48 University Blvd., 6:30-9:00 p.m.

February 6, 2002: Santa Fe, NM. New Mexico Environment Department, Harold Runnels Bldg., Auditorium, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

February 7, 2002: Farmington, NM. Farmington Civic Center, Exhibition Hall, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

The 60 day comment period begins January 18, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. and will end March 19, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. MST. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record should be submitted to the SWQB in writing at the meetings or to the address below (if possible, please submit an electronic copy as well). The SWQB will approach the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (NMWQCC) at their regular monthly meeting, tentatively set for April 9, 2002, to request final review and approval of the WQMP, or to schedule a public hearing if warranted by the public participation process.

For more information, contact Glenn Saums, of the NMED SWQB, at P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87502 or by calling (505) 827-2827 or e-mail at:

<glenn_saums@nmenv.state.nm.us>. The draft WQMP is available upon request and will be posted on the Surface Water Quality Bureau's website (by January 18), which can be found at: <<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/swqb.html>>.

If you are an individual with a disability and you require assistance or an auxiliary aid (e.g. translator or sign-language interpreter) to participate in any aspect of this process, please contact Cliff Hawley by January 25, 2002, at the New Mexico Environment Department, 1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502, (505) 827-2850 (TDD or TDY users please access his number via the New Mexico Relay Network. Albuquerque TDD users: (505) 275-7333; outside of Albuquerque: 1-800-659-1779.)

Legal # 0043
Pub. Date: 1-18-02

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Pub. No. 27165
Publish: January 18, 2002

be provided in various accessible forms. Please contact Lea Larranaga if a summary or other type of accessible form is needed.

Pub. No. 27162
Publish: January 16, 17, 18, 2002

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2002. /s/Gregory C. Artman, Personal Representative MODRALL, SPERLING, ROEHL, HARRIS & SISK, P.A. John A. Darden Attorneys for Personal Representative P.O. Box 578 Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004-0578 (505) 526-6655 (505) 526-6656 (fax)

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Appendix C

Batcho & Kauffman Associates
Archeological Site Survey for BK63

LABORATORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY, MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO
 ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE SURVEY FORM

LA No. _____ Site Name _____ Other Inst.# BK63 I.O. _____
 MNM Proj.# _____ UTM: Zone 13 E3 4 6 4 8 0 N3 5 9 9 1 0 0
 Legal Desc. T 20 N (S) R 3 (E) W Sec 33
NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4
 Unplatted _____ Grant _____ Owner & Address BLM Las Cruces District
 *Map Reference: Taylor Well 7.5' Date: edited 1982 Scale: 1:24000
 County Dona Ana State NM Nearest Named Drainage Bear Creek
 Locational Desc.: Recognized Landmarks Between telephone poles 1230
and 1231. North of site BK61
 Site Type: Artifact scatter with FCR/ash stain
 Site Size: Length 45m E/W Width 35m N/S Elevation (# of Feet) 4625
 Topographic Setting (Location & Access): Travel west on Road C from NASA
facilities for 1.4km. Walk north 100 meters to site

<input type="checkbox"/> arroyo/wash	<input type="checkbox"/> flood plain/	<input type="checkbox"/> plain/flat
<input type="checkbox"/> base of cliff	<input type="checkbox"/> valley bottom	<input type="checkbox"/> playa
<input type="checkbox"/> bench	<input type="checkbox"/> hill top	<input type="checkbox"/> ridge
<input type="checkbox"/> blowout	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hill slope	<input type="checkbox"/> saddle
<input type="checkbox"/> canyon rim	<input type="checkbox"/> low rise	<input type="checkbox"/> base talus slope
<input type="checkbox"/> cave	<input type="checkbox"/> mesa	<input type="checkbox"/> terrace
<input type="checkbox"/> cliff/scarp	<input type="checkbox"/> mountain	other (specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> constricted cyn	<input type="checkbox"/> mt. front/foothill	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> dune	<input type="checkbox"/> open canyon floor	_____

Local Vegetation Creosote, mesquite, snakeweed

Ecological Zone: forest _____ woodland _____ scrubland _____ grassland _____
 desertscrub ☒ marshland _____ other (specify) _____

*Form must be accompanied by photocopy portion of USGS map showing T., R., scale and quad name.

Soil Type: rocky___ gravelly x sandy x clayey___ other _____Local Outcrops: sandstone___ shale___ limestone___ basalt___ tuff___
other (specify) _____

Nature and Depth of Fill: _____ Unknown _____

Arch. Status: Amount and Type of Work Past and Present _____

Present work consists of recording, mapping and photos

National and/or State Register Status:

- ___ On State Register
- ___ On National and State Register
- ___ Recommended for National by State, on State Register
- ___ Recommended for National and State Register
- ___ In District, National and State
- ___ In District, National
- ___ In District, State
- ___ Recommended and rejected
- X Insufficiently evaluated, potential unknown
- ___ Not nominated

Condition of Site: intact X grazed___ eroded___ mech. disturbance___
vandalized___ other _____Mitigation: avoid X monitor___ test___ excavate___ not required _____

Surveyed for _____ NASA/Lockheed Eng. & Mgt Service _____

Record Form: Surv. Forms X Excav. Forms___ Sketch Map X Photos X _____

Loc. of Forms, Maps, Photos _____ Batcho & Kauffman Assoc., Las Cruces _____

Surface and/or Subsurface Collections: yes X no___ Strategy _____Non-random collection of diagnostic rim sherd

Location of Collected Artifacts _____ New Mexico State University Museum _____

Previous Collections? No When _____ Repository _____Is there another site close by? Yes LA or Field Identif.# _____ BK61 _____Artifact Density: 0, 10's 100's, 1000's.

Time Diagnostic Artifacts: Rim sherd

No. of Temporal Components 1

(Earliest to Latest)

Temporal Component (1)

Features Possible hearth (FCR with staining); lithic scatterCulture Jornada Mogollon Period _____ Phase MesillaSite Function: Short term camp Best Date A.D. 600-900Method of Date: Rim sherds

Temporal Component (2)

Features _____

Culture _____ Period _____ Phase _____

Site Function _____ Best Date _____

Method of Date _____

Temporal Component (3)

Features _____

Culture _____ Period _____

Phase _____

Site Function _____ Best Date _____

Method of Date _____

Additional Temporal Components

Published Reference:

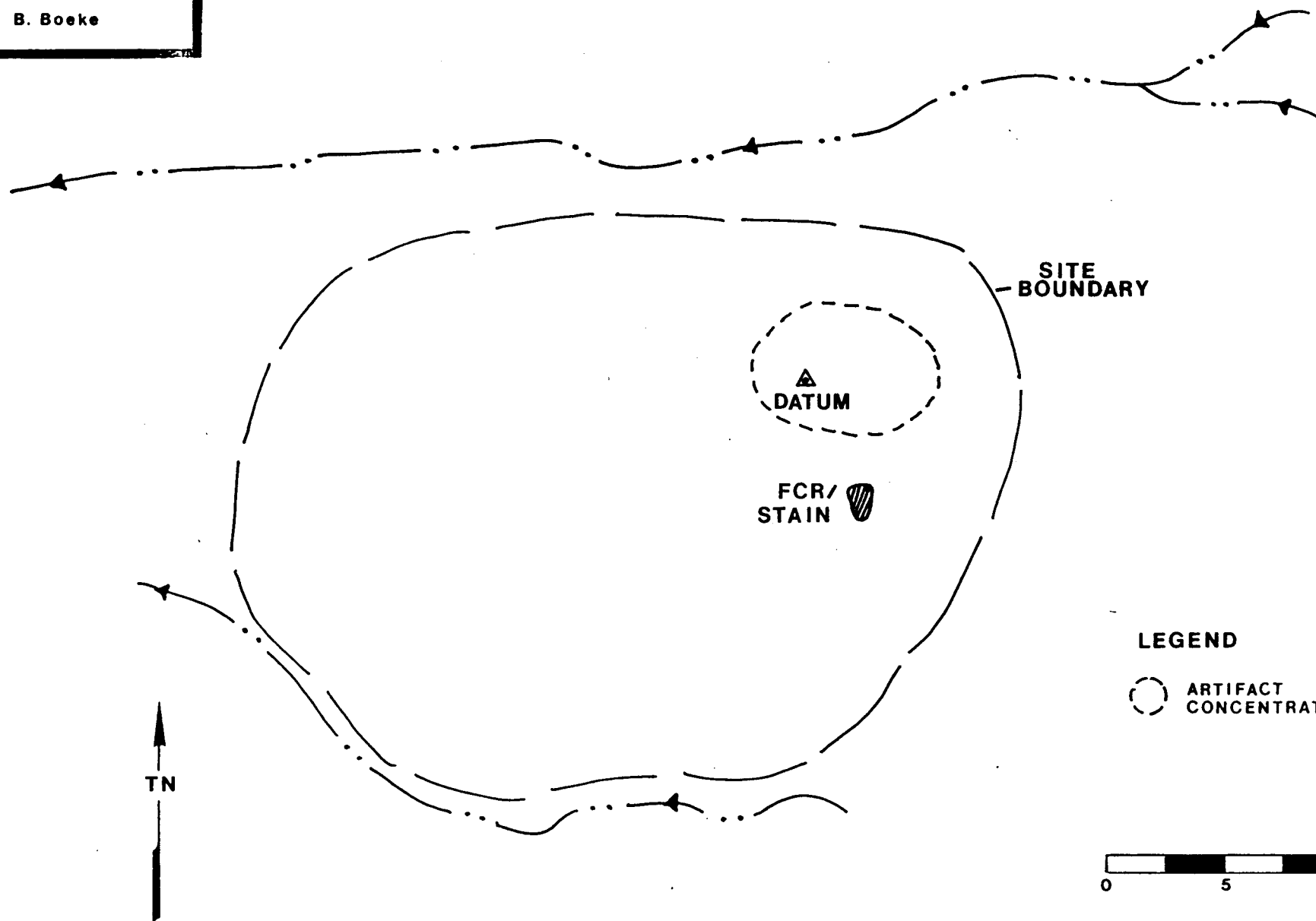
Date 1987Institution Batcho & Kauffman Associates, Las CrucesAuthor and Title B. Kauffman; Batcho & Kauffman Assoc. Cultural Resources
Report No. 31Remarks: Site BK63 consists of a low density artifact scatter.Lithics, ceramics and groundstone were observed at the site.Lithic material includes dolomite, siltstone and black chert.Primary and secondary flakes dominate the lithics. Only onelithic tool, a flake tool, was present. Undecorated ceramicsand a few pieces of groundstone were also present. The majorityof the artifacts were concentrated in one area around the sitedatum.The site is situated in a low spot. The elevation rises
in all directions except to the west.A buried hearth is present 10 meters south of the datum.It consists of some FCR associated with some staining.Field Recorder Bruce Boeke Date 7/27/87

Lab Recorder _____ Date _____

SITE BK63

July 27, 1987

B. Boeke



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

AGENCY:

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
White Sands Test Facility
Las Cruces, New Mexico

ACTION:

Fabrication and operation of a mid-plume groundwater remediation system including extraction wells, above ground and sub-grade piping, roads, powerlines, and a possible pre-treatment facility.

SUMMARY:

Based on the Mid-Plume Constriction Area Remediation Project Environmental Assessment, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

DATE:

January 18, 2002

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

Joseph Fries
Manager
NASA White Sands Test Facility

ADDRESS:

NASA White Sands Test Facility
P.O. Box 20
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Zigmond, P.E.
Environmental Program Manager (Acting)
NASA White Sands Test Facility
(505) 524-5484
Fax: (505) 524-5798
E-mail: mzigmond@wstf.nasa.gov

BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

The NASA White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) intends to install a series of four extraction wells, above ground and sub-grade piping, electrical supply facilities, access roads, and a possible pre-treatment substation in the mid-plume constriction area (MPCA) on NASA, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and State of New Mexico (NM) land adjacent to the NASA White Sands Test Facility (WSTF). This proposed MPCA remediation project would effectively remove contaminant mass at the mid-plume location, isolate the plume-front area from upgradient source area contaminants, intercept and mitigate westward contaminant transport, contain the northwest trending contaminant lobe, and minimize ecological and human health risks to potential receptors. The system is anticipated to be operational by Fall 2004. Contaminant treatment standards for the

injected water have been developed following standards and guidelines from Federal and State regulatory sources. WSTF is located approximately 16 miles northeast of Las Cruces, New Mexico. The proposed project's location is in Sections 33 and 34 of T20S, R3E, and Sections 3, 4, and 5 of T21S, R3E.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

NASA has considered the alternatives of full-scale groundwater remediation and no-action. At this time, full-scale remediation is not viable due to regulatory issues concerning plume-front contaminant migration, the extensive groundwater contamination plume boundaries, and hydrogeological concerns regarding remediation in fractured bedrock. The no-action alternative is not viable because it would not isolate source area contamination from the plume-front area, contaminant mass would not be remediated, the plume would continue to migrate through the MPCA, and the northwest trending contaminant lobe would not be abated. The Environmental Assessment (EA) provides information concerning each alternative.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

Environmental aspects were examined pertaining to the following areas: land use, energy, groundwater quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, air, and geology and soils. The following section summarizes the conclusions for relevant environmental issues:

Land use - Additional wells, well pads, roads, above ground and sub-grade piping, and powerlines with poles would be needed to support this proposal. Using existing facilities where applicable would minimize these actions. After construction, any disturbed land that will not be used on a regular basis would be reseeded according to suggestions from the BLM.

Energy – The MPCA extraction wells and pretreatment remediation system (if necessary) would not increase the energy requirements that were previously estimated for the operation of the plume-front remediation project. The previously published Plume-Front Remediation System EA included the future energy requirements of installing and connecting an MPCA remediation system to the plume-front system. The Plume-Front Remediation EA estimated a site-wide annual energy increase of approximately 8,900,000 kilowatt-hours at an estimated cost of \$500,000 for the operation of both the plume-front and MPCA remediation systems.

Groundwater Quality - Groundwater quality at the project area would be significantly enhanced. The MPCA remediation project would effectively remove contaminant mass at the mid-plume location, isolate the plume-front area from upgradient source area contaminant, intercept and mitigate westward contaminant transport, contain the northwest trending contaminant lobe, and minimize ecological and human health risks to potential receptors.

Biological resources - The proposed project area has no habitat critical to the survival or reproduction of any listed species of plant or animal. This was observed during a threatened and endangered species survey. Additionally, there are no areas nearby that are considered highly sensitive or moderately sensitive that could be affected by the proposed action. However, wells, well pads, roads, pipes, and powerlines with poles would be needed to support this proposal. Using existing facilities in all applicable instances would minimize these actions.

Cultural resources - During the implementation phase, there is a possibility of unearthing archeological resources. An archeological survey has been completed for the affected area. If any undocumented or previously undiscovered archeological site were uncovered during construction, site construction would cease until historic preservation issues are resolved. No known archeological sites would be endangered or disturbed by the proposed project.

Noise - Construction activities are expected to be completed intermittently over a one year period. An additional four extraction wells would be drilled, each lasting approximately 10 days. Ecological impacts from well installation activities, remedial system construction, increased vehicular traffic, and system operation are expected to be negligible.

Air - Environmental impacts to air quality will be minimal. The NMED Air Quality Bureau does not regulate emissions from remediation activities and the emission quantities from air stripping activities are well below RCRA-related permit thresholds (Subparts AA, BB, and CC).

Geology and soils - A minor concern exists with an increase of wind or water erosion of soils during the construction phase. This is unlikely to transform the topographic conditions within the proposed area.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

An Environmental Assessment that supports the Finding of No Significant Impact is available for public review at the Branigan Library (200 East Picacho Avenue, Las Cruces, NM; Reference Desk). A public meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 25, 2002, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Dresp Room of the Branigan Library. All comments are invited for consideration by the NASA Environmental Program Manager within 30 calendar days of this notice. Address all correspondence to:

**NASA White Sands Test Facility
Attn: Michael Zigmond
P.O. Box 20
Las Cruces, NM 88004**

Publish: January 18, 2002